



MIRABAI

SHE GAVE HER HEART TO KRISHNA

Vol 535 | ₹50

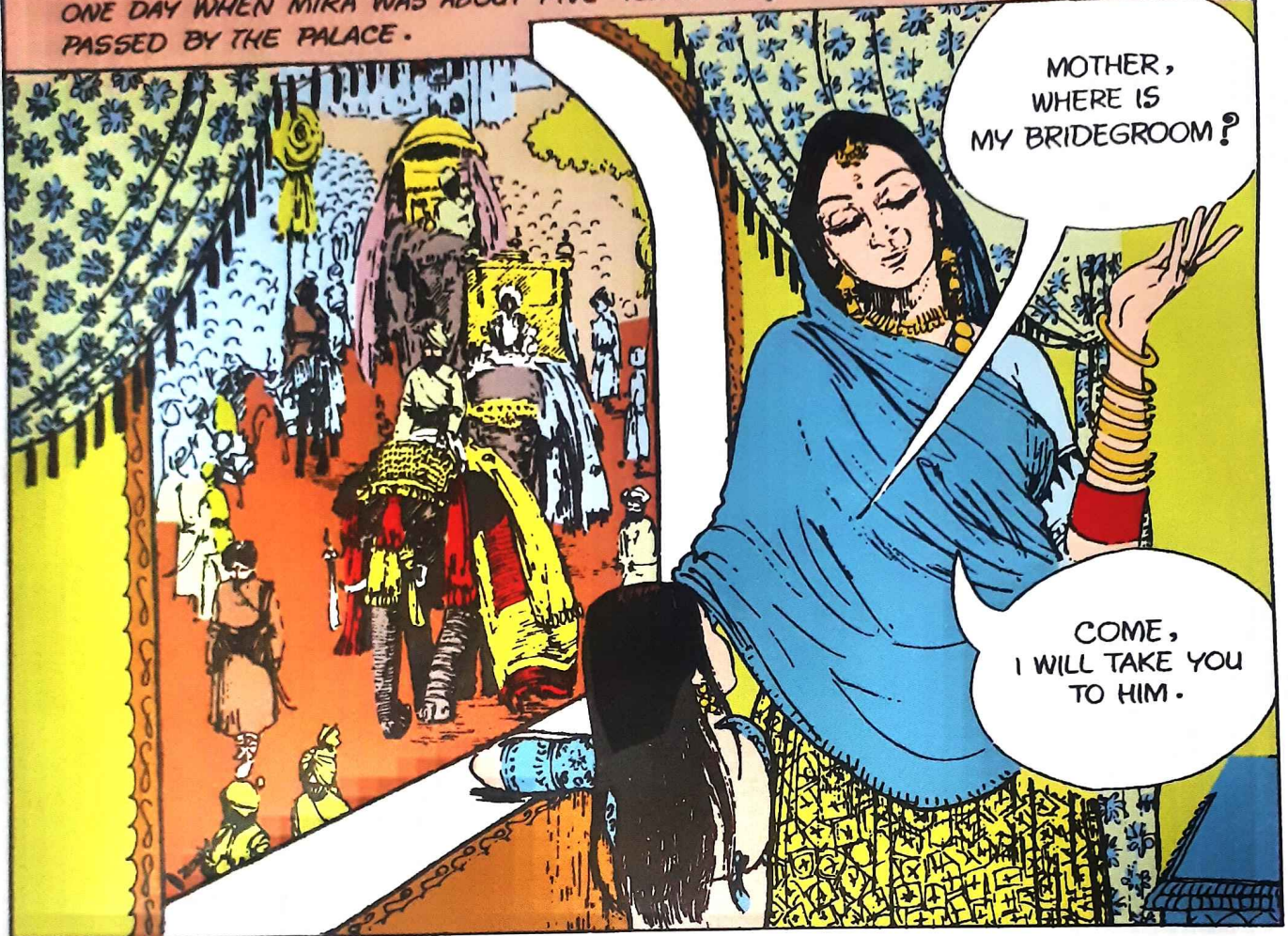


mirabai



RANA RATANSINGH, WHO RULED OVER KURKHI IN RAJASTHAN, WAS A GOOD RULER AND WAS LOVED BY HIS PEOPLE. HE HAD A BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER NAMED **MIRA**.

ONE DAY WHEN MIRA WAS ABOUT FIVE YEARS OLD, A WEDDING PROCESSION PASSED BY THE PALACE.



HER MOTHER LED HER TO AN IMAGE OF LORD KRISHNA, KEPT IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM. MIRA LOVED THIS IMAGE.

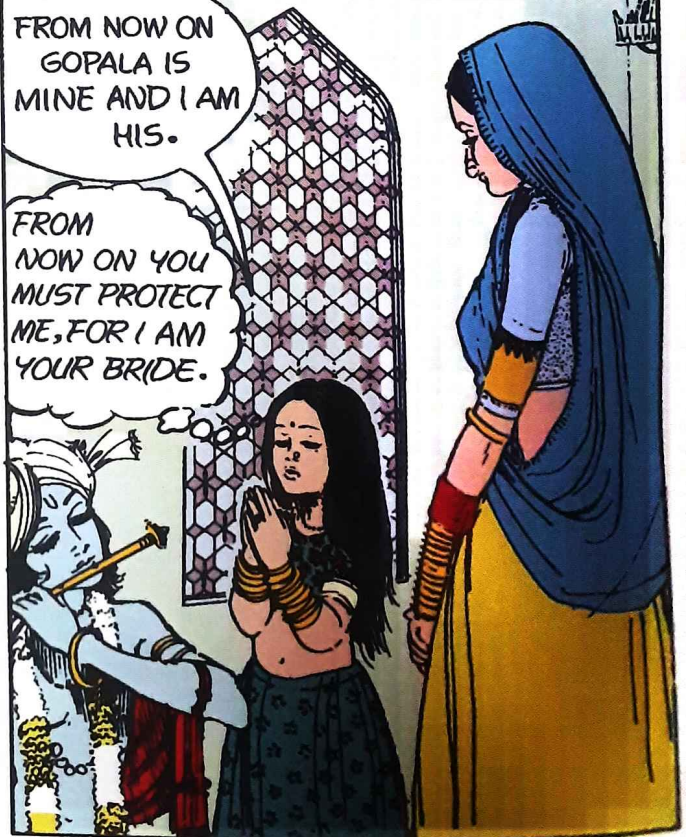
THERE IS YOUR HUSBAND! GOPALA HIMSELF. LOVE HIM AND SERVE HIM AS A GOOD WIFE WOULD HER HUSBAND.



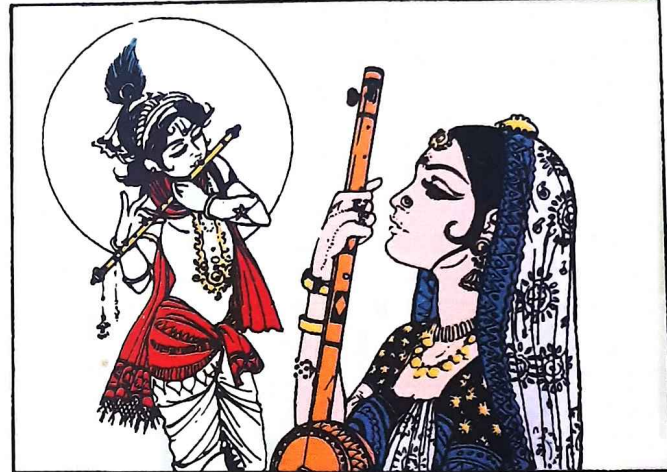
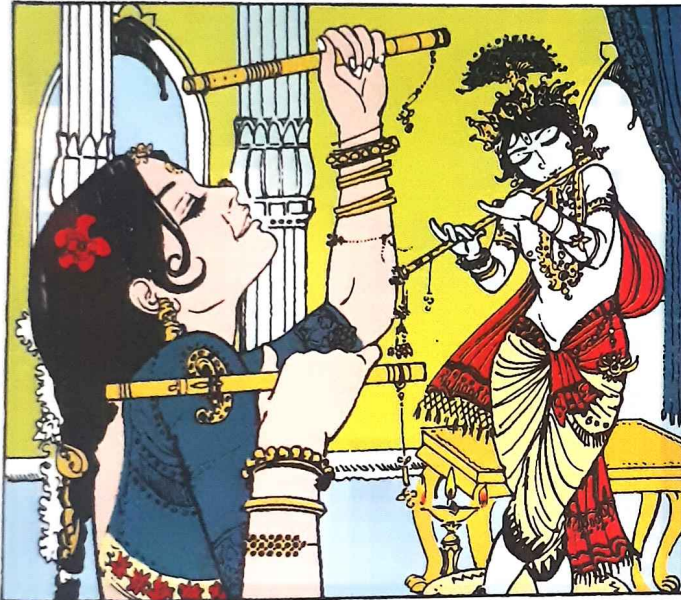
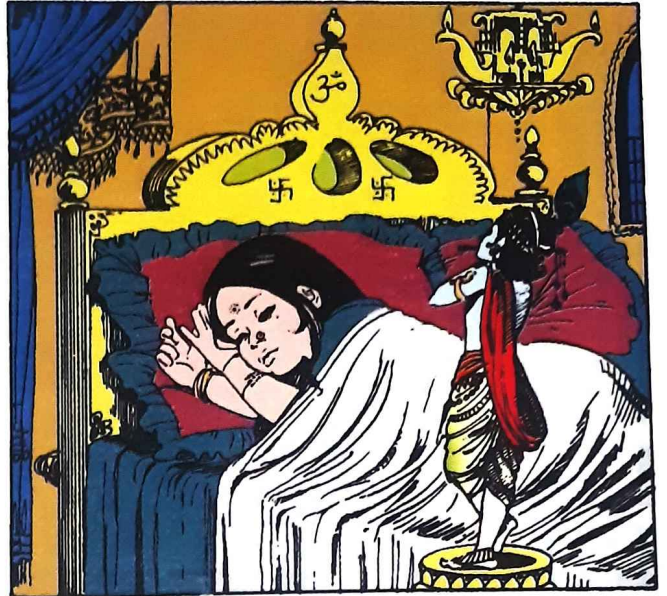
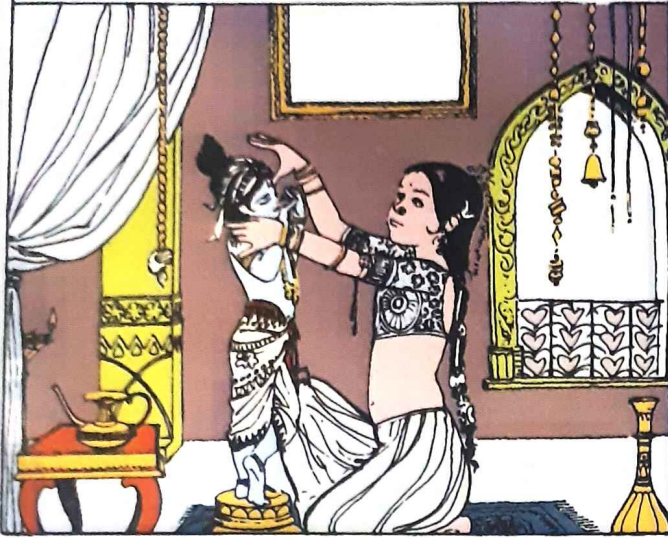
MIRA TOOK HER MOTHER SERIOUSLY.

FROM NOW ON GOPALA IS MINE AND I AM HIS.

FROM NOW ON YOU MUST PROTECT ME, FOR I AM YOUR BRIDE.



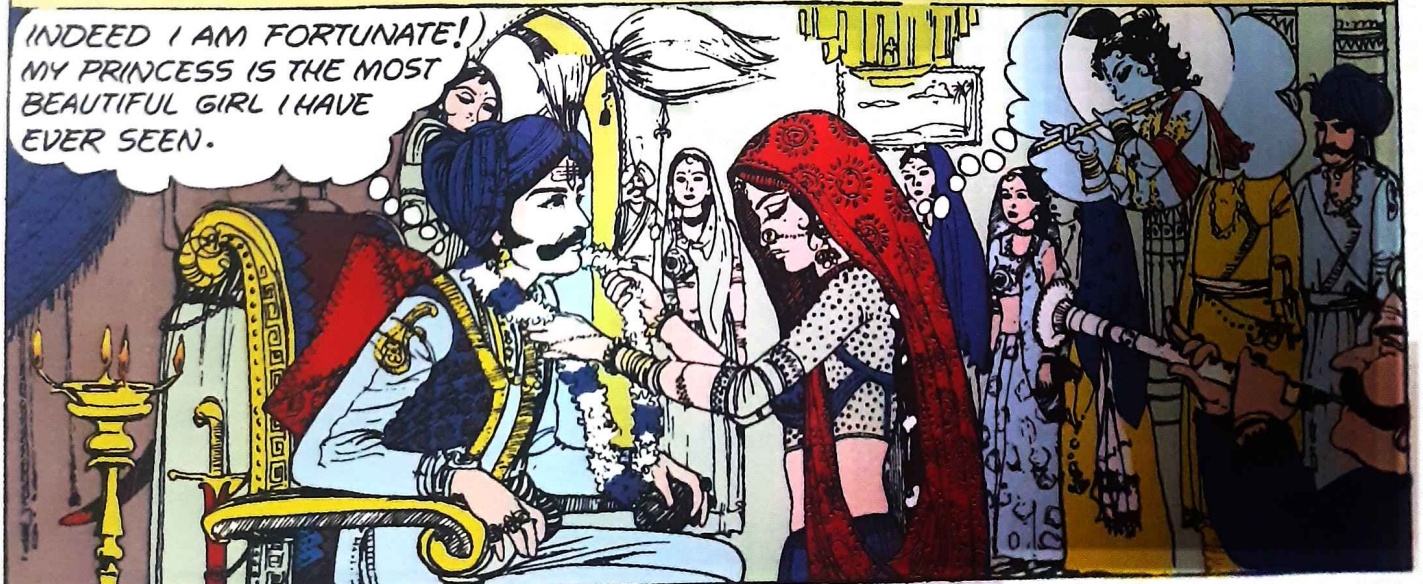
AND SHE LEFT OFF ALL OTHER PLAY.



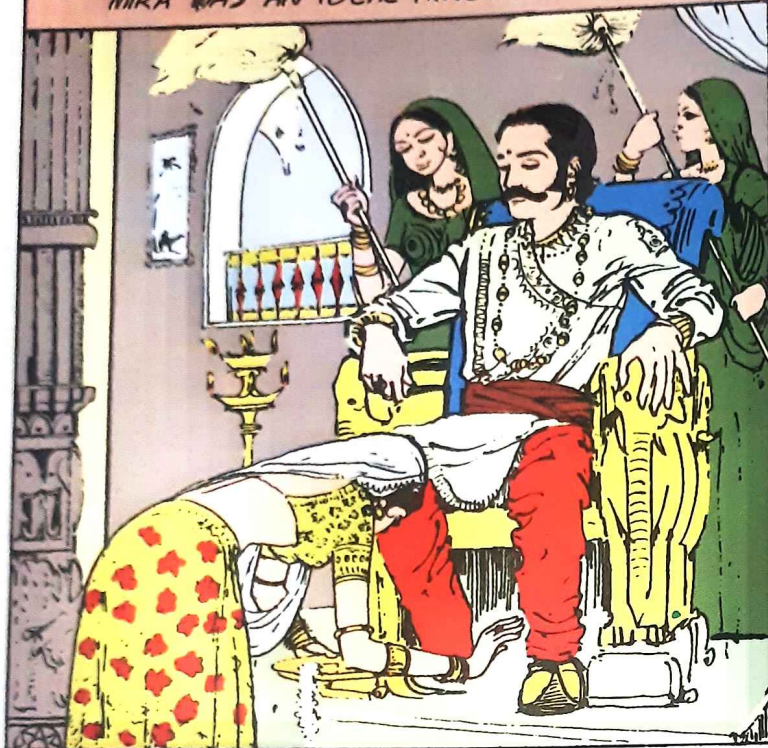
SO THE YEARS PASSED AND MIRA WAS STEADFAST IN HER LOVE OF HER DIVINE HUSBAND.

ONE DAY A BRIDAL PROCESSION ARRIVED AND MIRA WAS MARRIED TO PRINCE BHOJRAU OF CHITTOR WHO WAS KNOWN FOR HIS VALOUR AND HIS DEEP HATRED OF THE MUGHALS -

INDEED I AM FORTUNATE!
MY PRINCESS IS THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL GIRL I HAVE
EVER SEEN.



MIRA WAS AN IDEAL HINDU WIFE...



... AND WAS LOVED BY HER HUSBAND.

BUT AS SOON AS HER HOUSEHOLD DUTIES WERE OVER, MIRA WOULD TURN TO HER DIVINE HUSBAND—HER GOPALA—WHOM SHE HAD BROUGHT WITH HER.



HER MOTHER-IN-LAW DID NOT APPROVE OF THIS.

DURGA IS OUR FAMILY GODDESS. YOU SHOULD WORSHIP HER!



MIRA WAS ADAMANT.

FORGIVE ME, MOTHER. I HAVE ALREADY OFFERED MYSELF TO LORD KRISHNA. I CANNOT BOW BEFORE ANY OTHER DEITY.



BHOJRAJ'S SISTER UDA ALSO TRIED HER HAND BUT IN VAIN.



FULL OF ANGER, SHE DECIDED TO TAKE REVENGE.

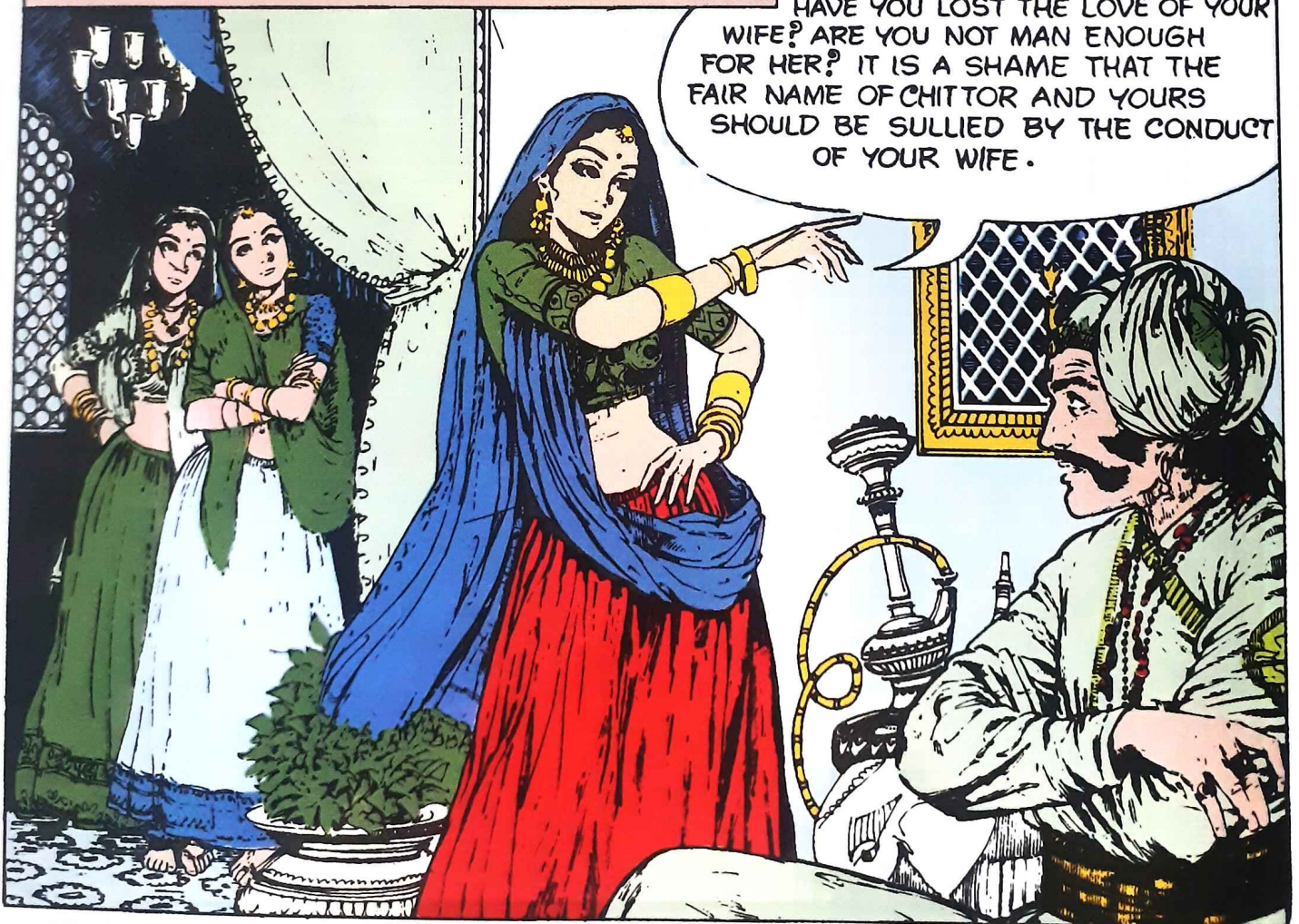
MIRA GOES EVERY EVENING TO THE TEMPLE. I WILL TELL MY BROTHER SHE HAS A LOVER!

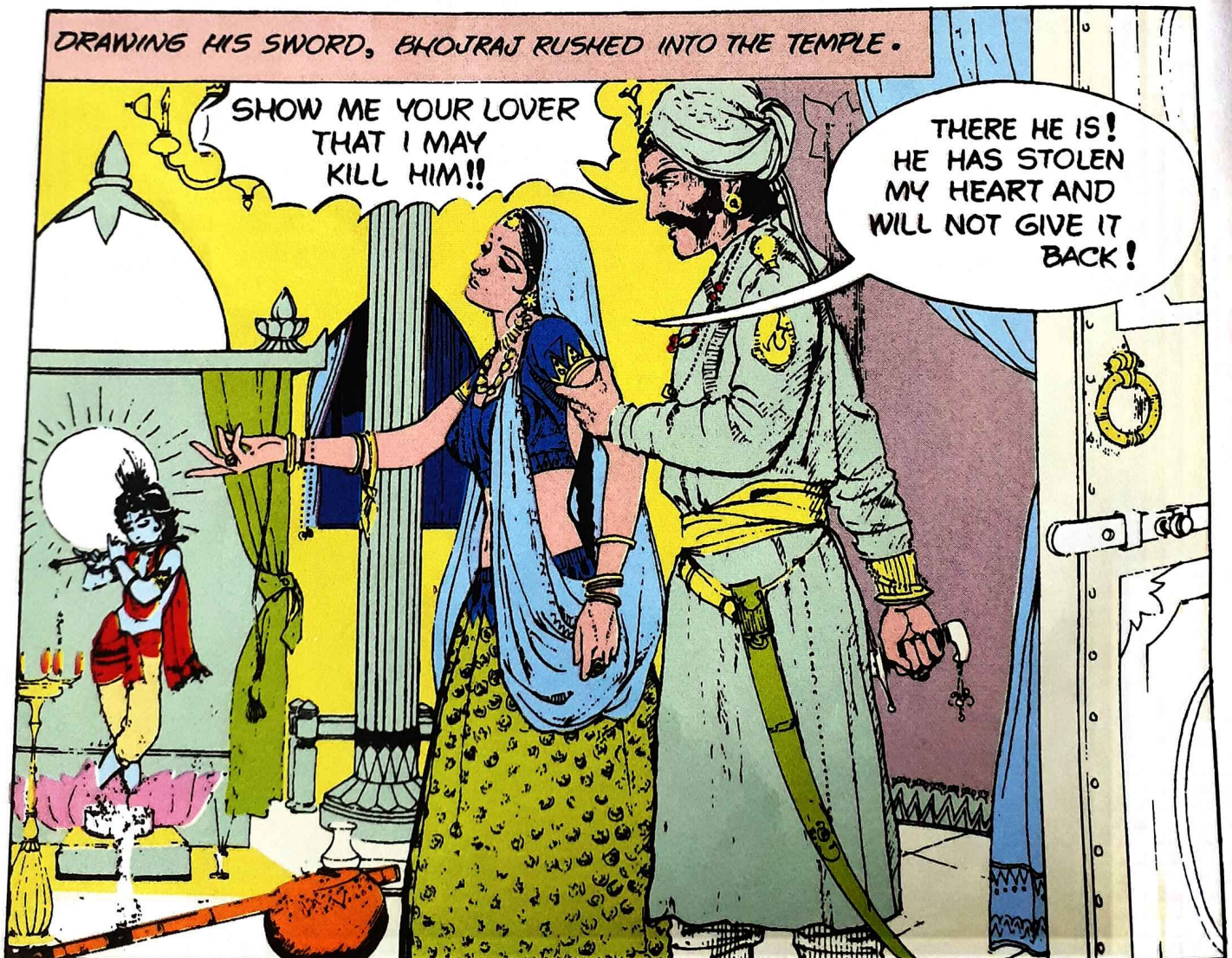
A CLEVER IDEA.



UDA AND HER COMPANIONS WENT TO BHOJRAJ.

FORGIVE ME, BROTHER! HAVE YOU LOST THE LOVE OF YOUR WIFE? ARE YOU NOT MAN ENOUGH FOR HER? IT IS A SHAME THAT THE FAIR NAME OF CHITTOR AND YOURS SHOULD BE SULLIED BY THE CONDUCT OF YOUR WIFE.

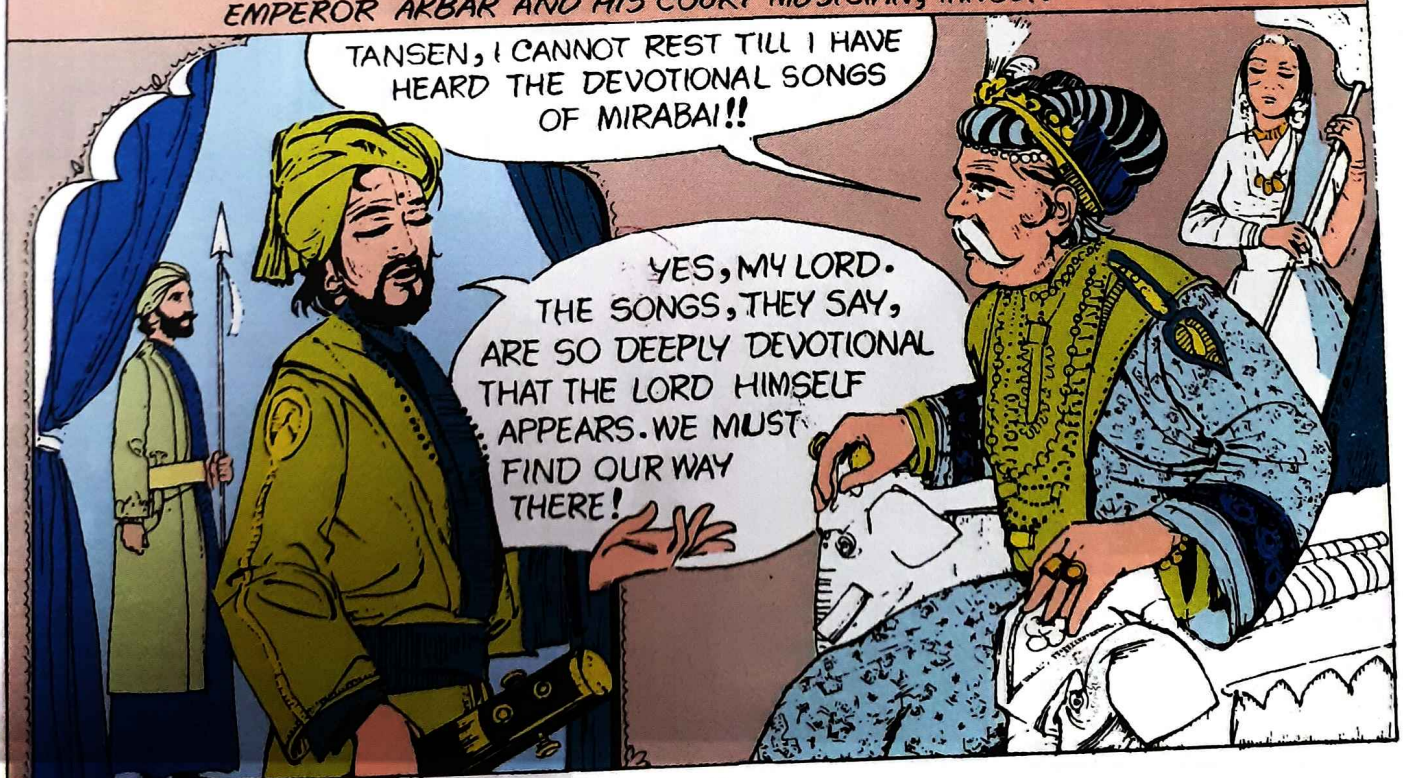




KING BHOJRAJ, CONVINCED THAT HIS WIFE WAS INSANE, DECIDED TO HUMOUR HER. HE BUILT A TEMPLE FOR HER WHERE SHE COULD WORSHIP HER STONE LOVER TO HER HEART'S CONTENT! SOON DEVOTEES FLOCKED AROUND HER AND SHE OFTEN SANG AND DANCED HERSELF INTO ECSTASIES OVER HER LORD.



THE STORY OF MIRA'S DEVOTION TO LORD KRISHNA BY SONG, DANCE AND DISCOURSES SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. IT REACHED THE EARS OF THE MUGHAL EMPEROR AKBAR AND HIS COURT MUSICIAN, TANSEN.



KNOWING THAT THE RAJPUTS HATED THE MUGHALS, THEY DECIDED TO GO DISGUISED AS HINDUS.

THESE SAFFRON ROBES OF A SADHU ARE THE MOST SUITABLE.

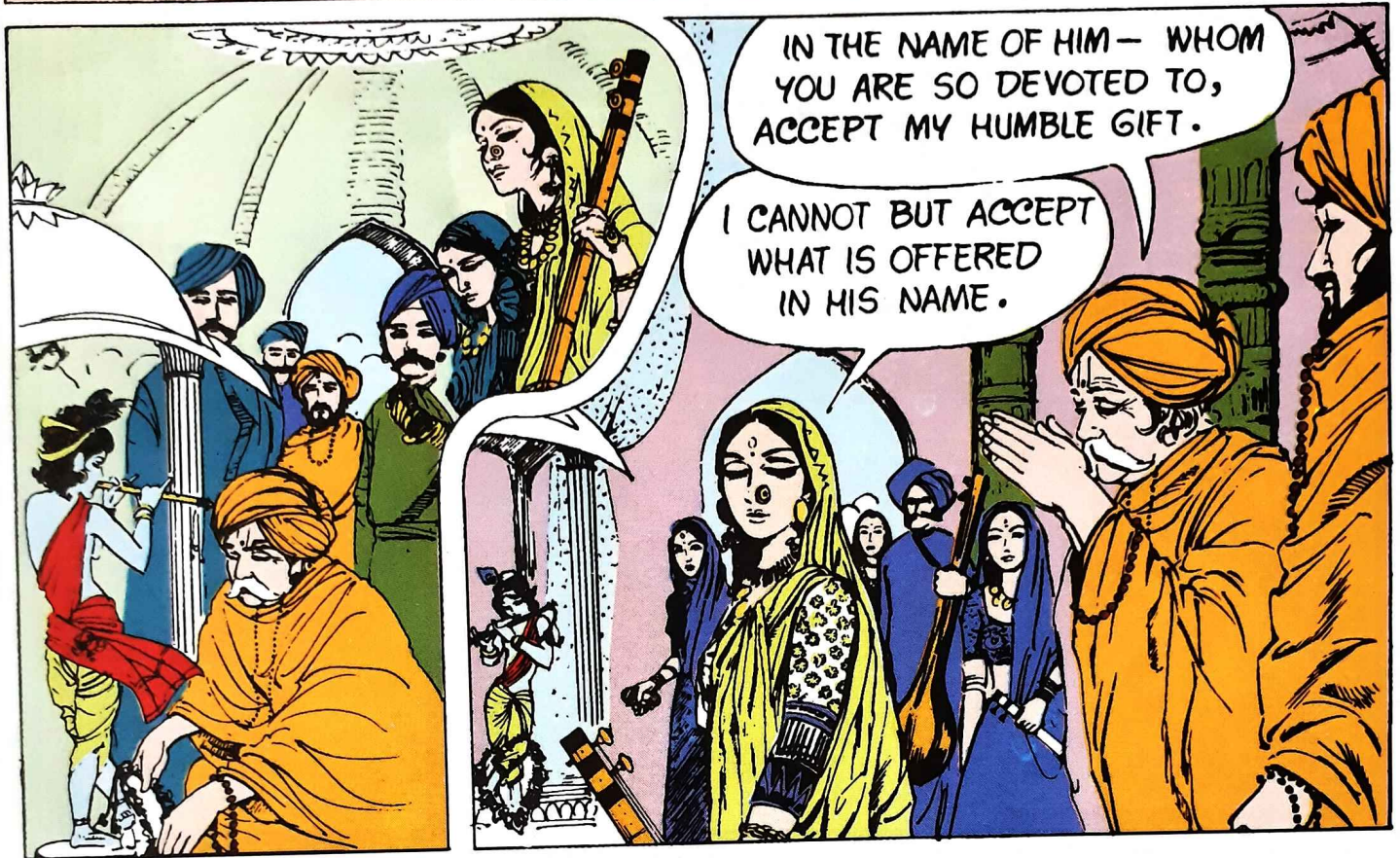
YES, MY LORD.

AT LAST THEY REACHED THE TEMPLE WHERE MIRA SAT BEFORE HER LORD.

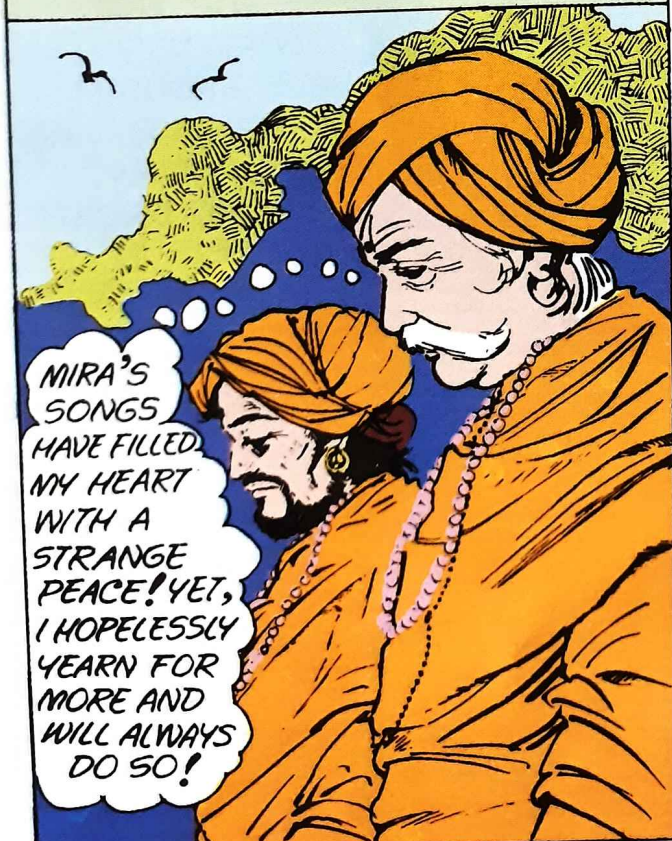
AS SOON AS THE DEVOTEES STARTED POURING IN, SHE BEGAN HER SINGING. SOME OF THEM JOINED HER, OTHERS LISTENED...

I, MIRA, SOLD MYSELF TO GOPALA EVERLASTINGLY- AND THEN FROM WORLDLINESS I PARTED COMPANY!

AT THE END OF THE DAY'S PRAYERS, AKBAR AND TANSEN WERE IN A TRANCE. AKBAR APPROACHED MIRA, TOUCHED HER FEET AND PLACED A NECKLACE AT THE FEET OF THE IMAGE.



AND THE EMPEROR LEFT THE PLACE WITH A HEAVY HEART.

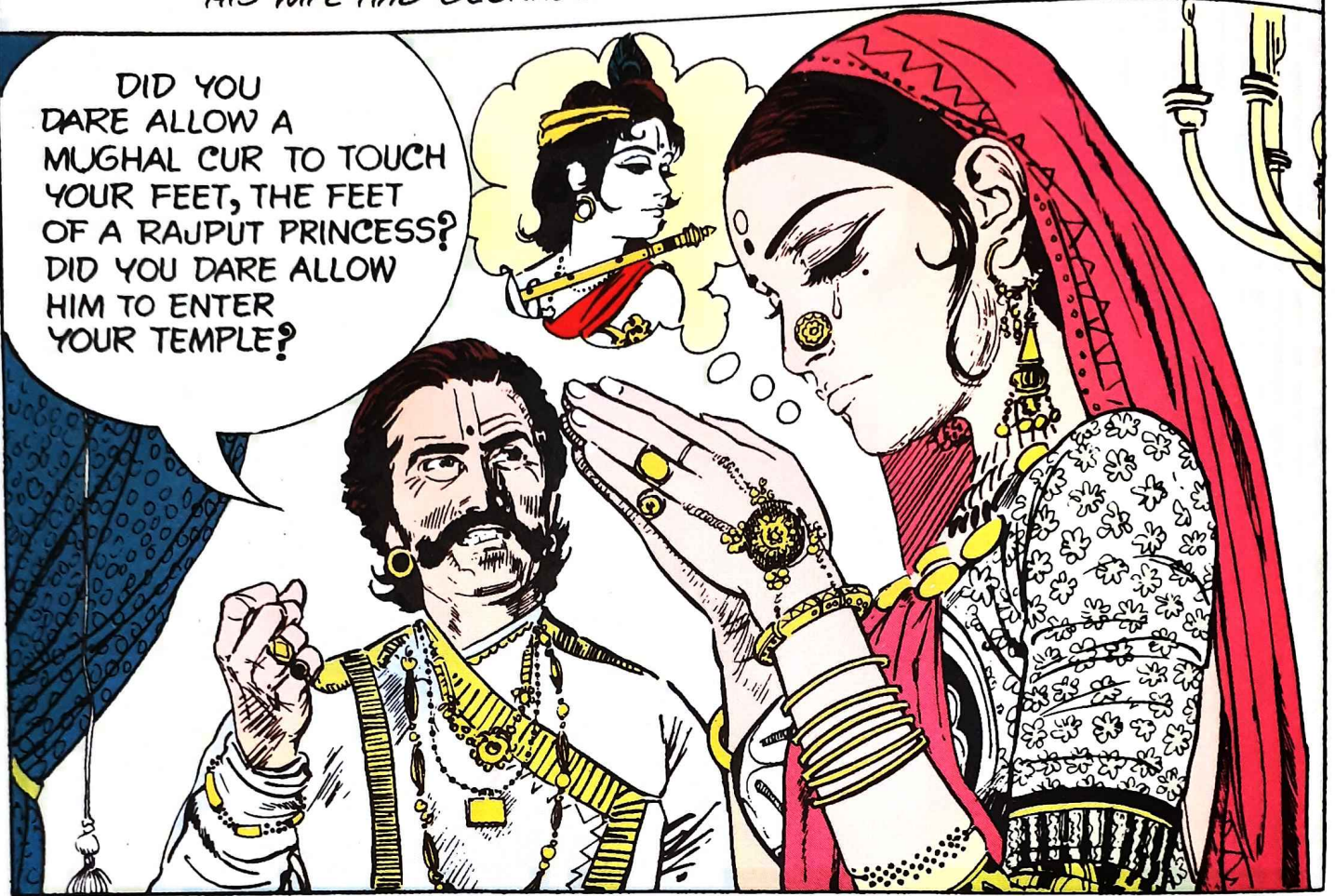


NEWS LEAKED OUT THAT THE MUGHAL EMPEROR AND HIS MUSICIAN HAD VISITED MIRA.



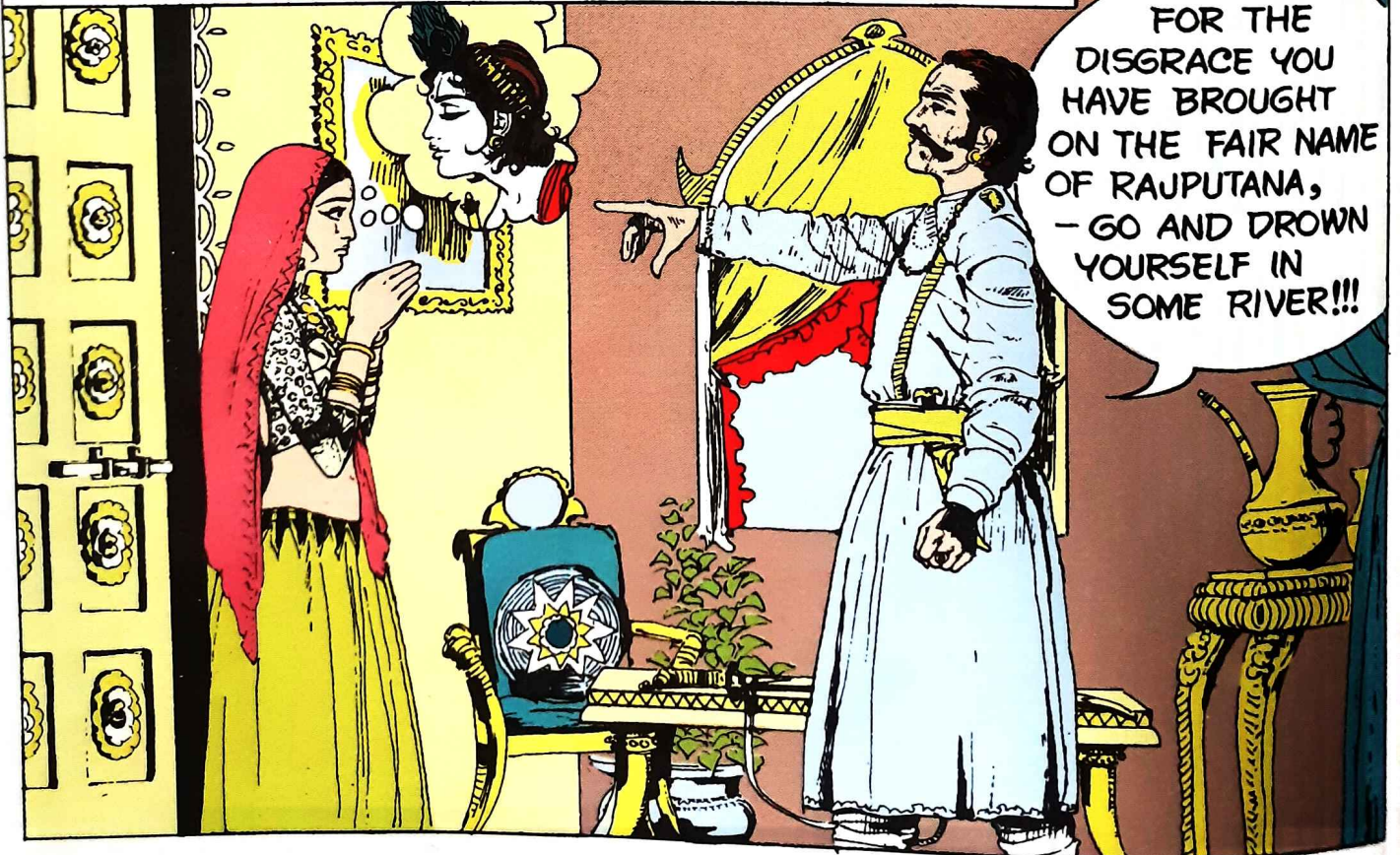
WHEN RANA BHOURAJ HEARD OF IT, HE SEETHED WITH ANGER. SANE OR INSANE HIS WIFE HAD DEGRADED HERSELF. HE SUMMONED HER.

DID YOU DARE ALLOW A MUGHAL CUR TO TOUCH YOUR FEET, THE FEET OF A RAJPUT PRINCESS? DID YOU DARE ALLOW HIM TO ENTER YOUR TEMPLE?

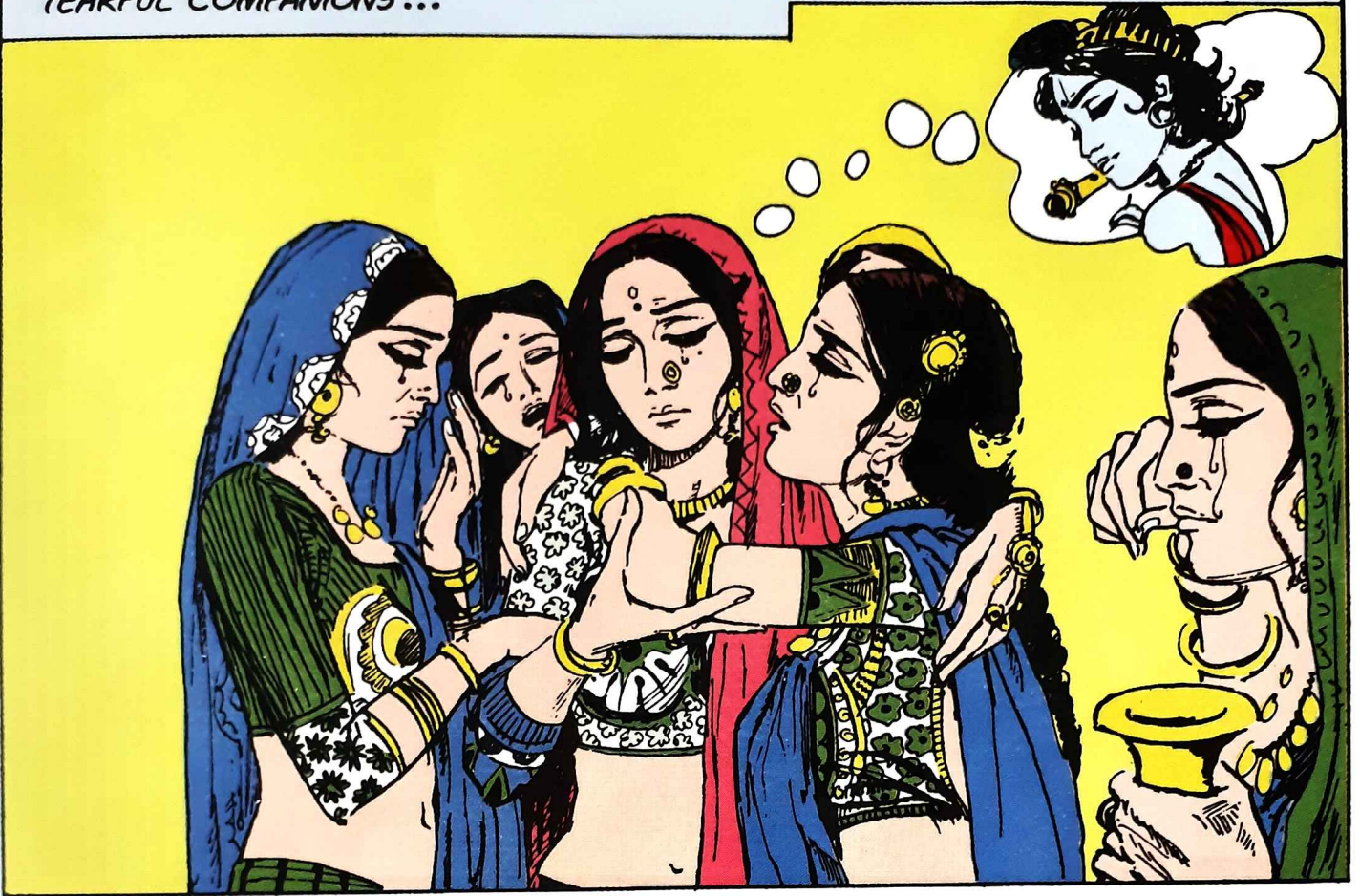


MIRA'S SERENE SILENCE ONLY MADE HIM MORE ANGRY.

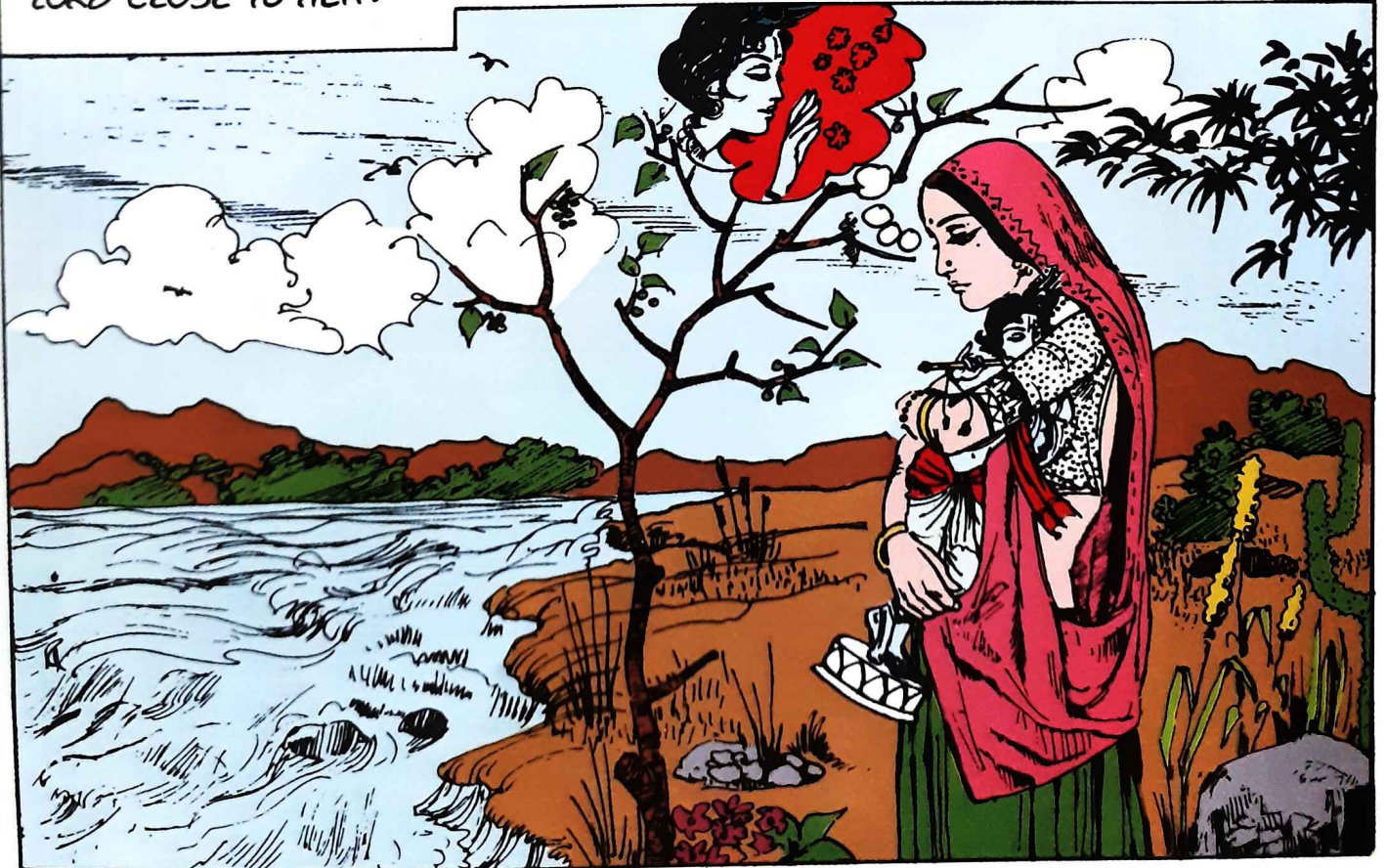
FOR THE DISGRACE YOU HAVE BROUGHT ON THE FAIR NAME OF RAJPUTANA, - GO AND DROWN YOURSELF IN SOME RIVER!!!



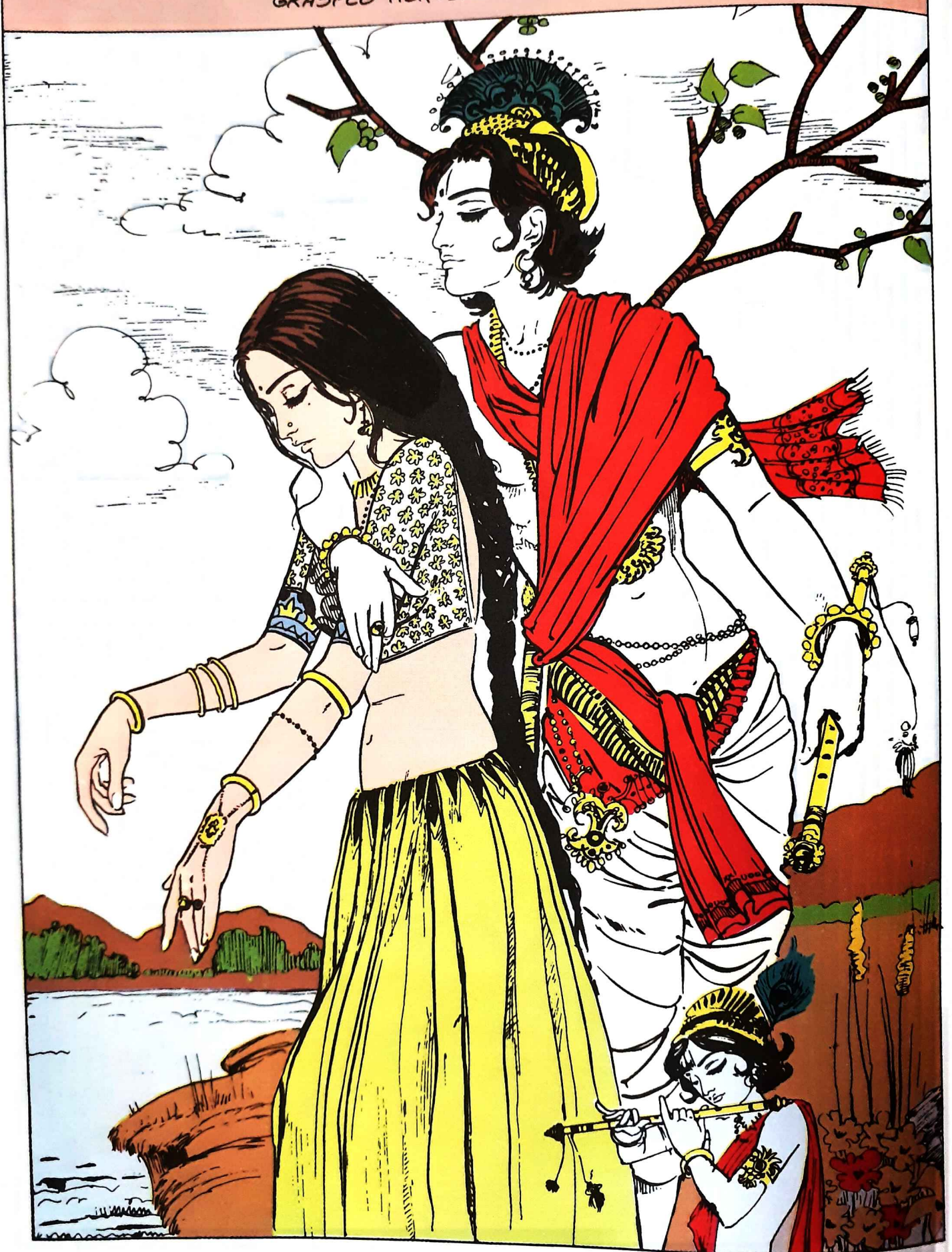
MIRA, THE TRUE HINDU WIFE, DID NOT PROTEST. SHE FONDLY TOOK LEAVE OF HER TEARFUL COMPANIONS...



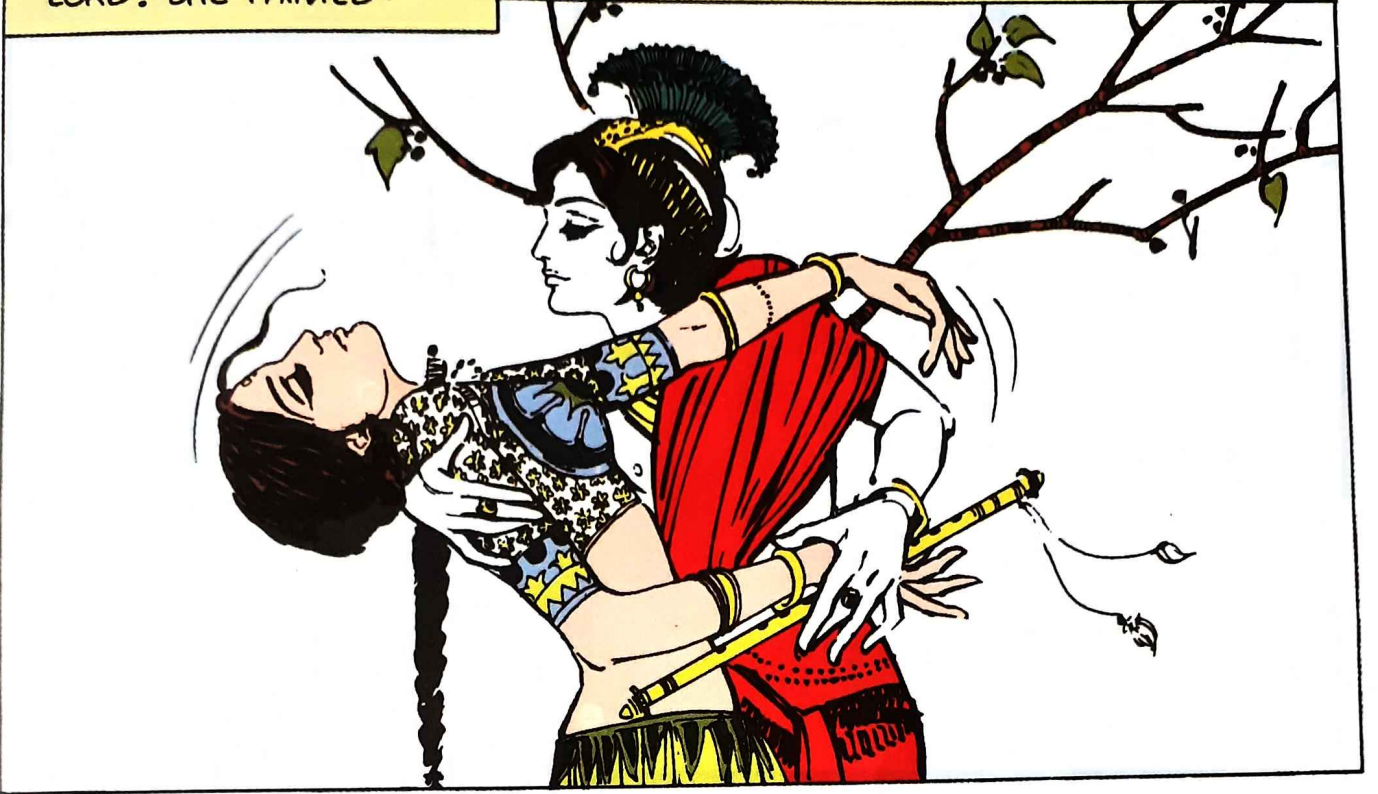
... AND SLOWLY WENDED HER WAY TO THE RIVER, HUGGING THE IMAGE OF HER LORD CLOSE TO HER.



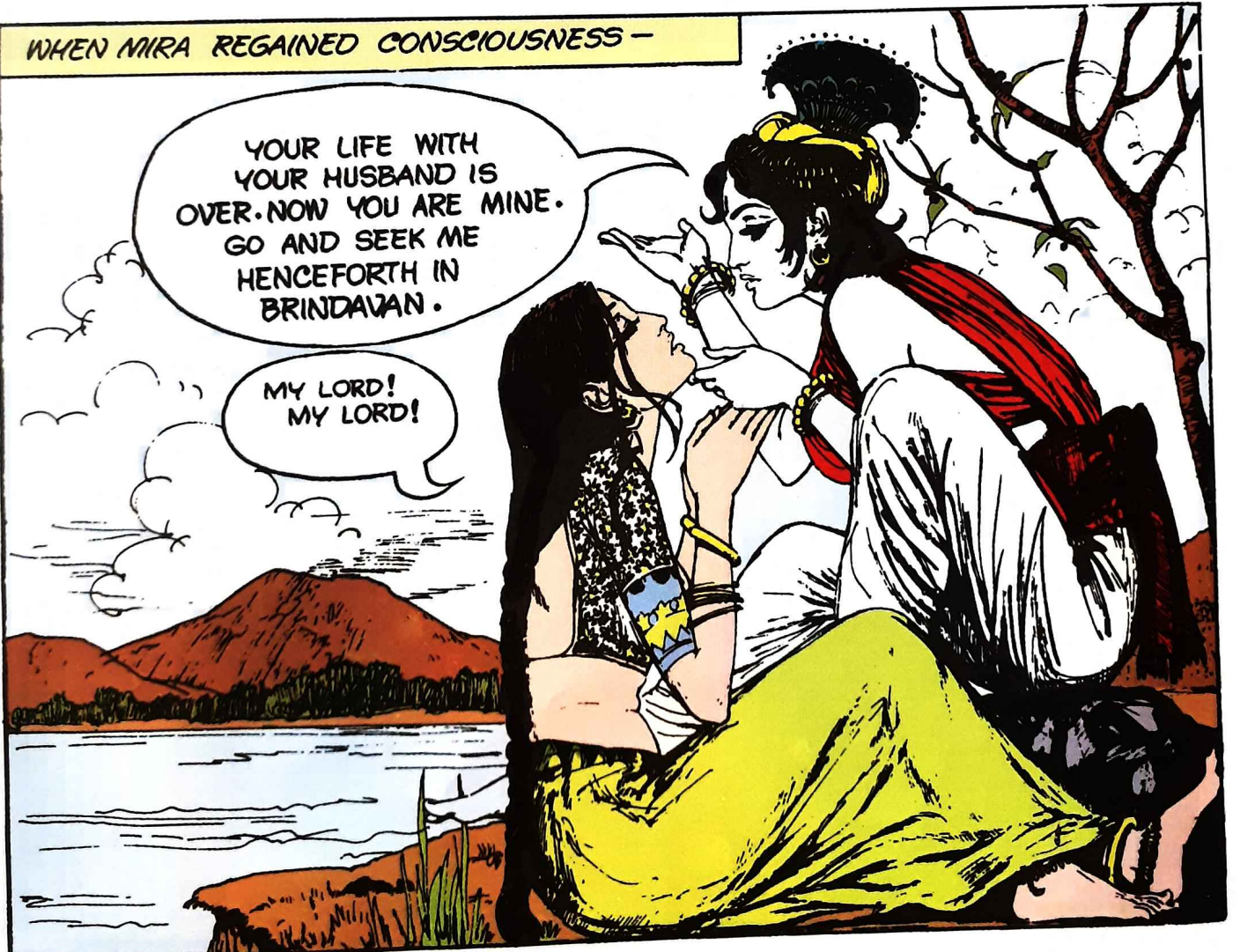
AS MIRA STOOD ON THE RIVER-BANK, THE TEMPLE BELLS CHIMED.
SHE WAS ABOUT TO JUMP, WHEN A HAND FROM BEHIND
GRASPED HER. SHE TURNED AROUND...



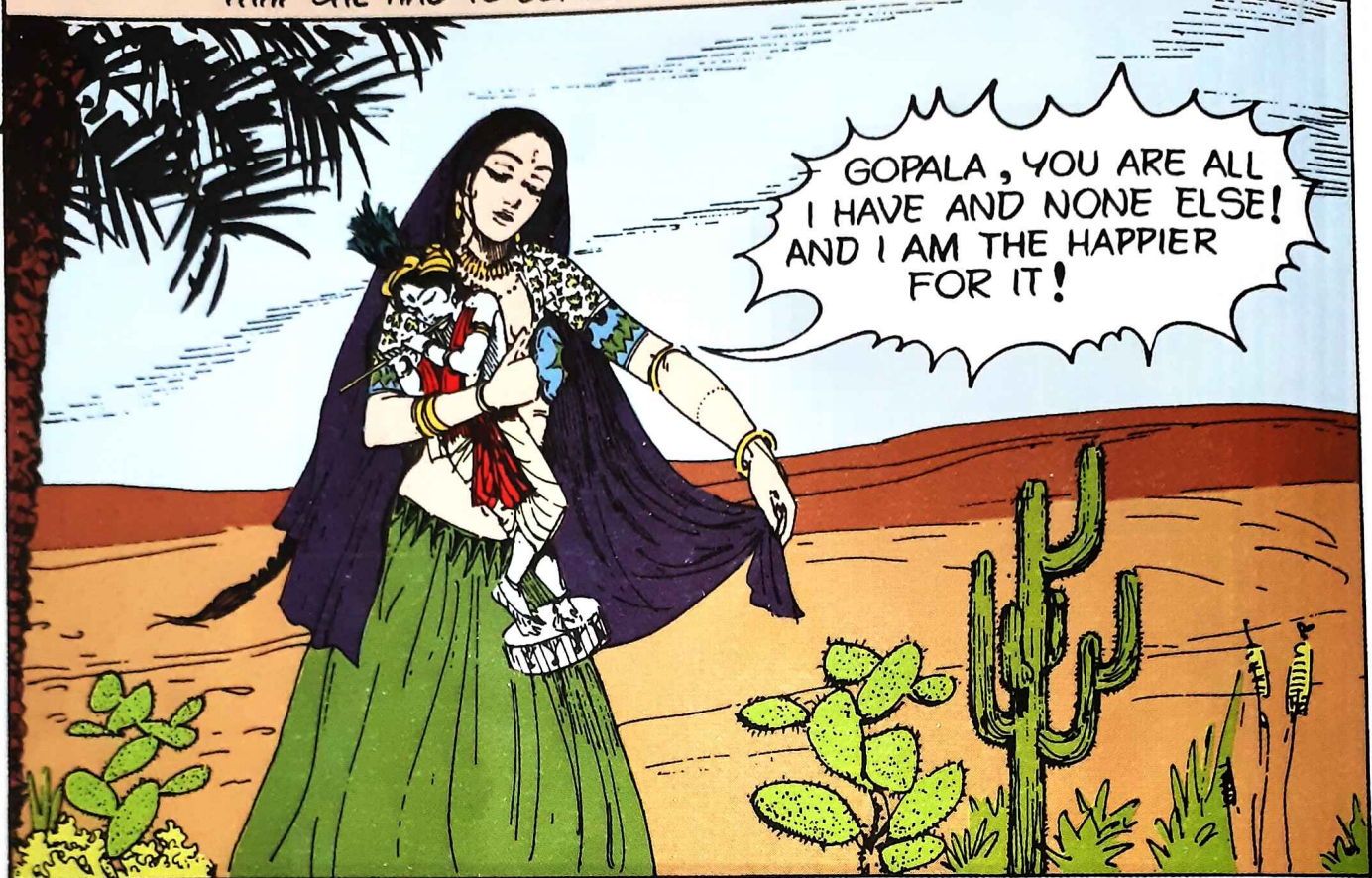
... AND WHAT SHOULD MEET HER EYES BUT THE HEAVENLY SMILE OF HER BELOVED LORD! SHE FAINTED.



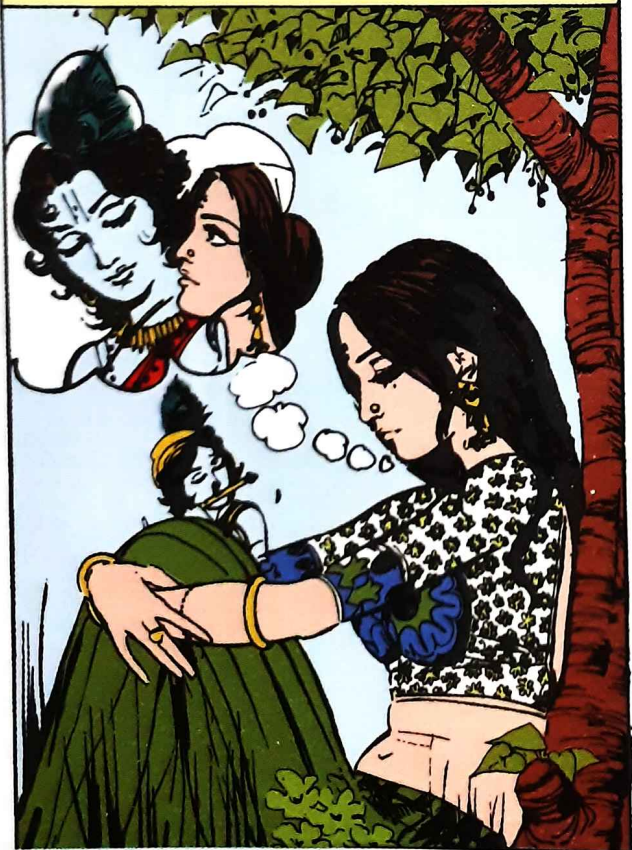
WHEN MIRA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS -



AFTER RECEIVING THE DIVINE COMMAND, MIRA SANG AND DANCED HER WAY TO BRINDAVAN, HARDLY AWARE OF ALL THAT SHE HAD TO SUFFER ON THE WAY.



AT LAST SHE REACHED HER DESTINATION— BRINDAVAN.



HARDLY HAD SHE ARRIVED WHEN DEVOTEES BEGAN TO FLOCK AROUND HER.



NEWS SPREAD THAT MIRA HAD COME.

MIRA HAS COME!

HAVE YOU HEARD HER SING TO GOPALA?

IT SEEMED AS IF HER DEVOTEES HAD HEARD OF HER AND WERE WAITING FOR HER.

GOPALA HAS SENT HER AT LAST!

ONCE MORE THERE WILL BE SINGING AND DANCING IN BRINDAVAN!

SHE IS RADHA REBORN!

PEOPLE CAME FROM FAR OFF PLACES TO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF THIS UNINHIBITED DEVOTEE OF LORD KRISHNA. ONE OF THEM WAS A TRAVELLER FROM CHITTOR!

MIRABAI ALIVE!! I MUST TAKE THIS NEWS TO RANA BHOURAJ!

WHEN HE RETURNED TO CHITTOR—



AFTER MIRA HAD GONE TO OBEY HIS COMMAND, BHOJRAJ HAD REPENTED OF HIS HARSH SENTENCE.



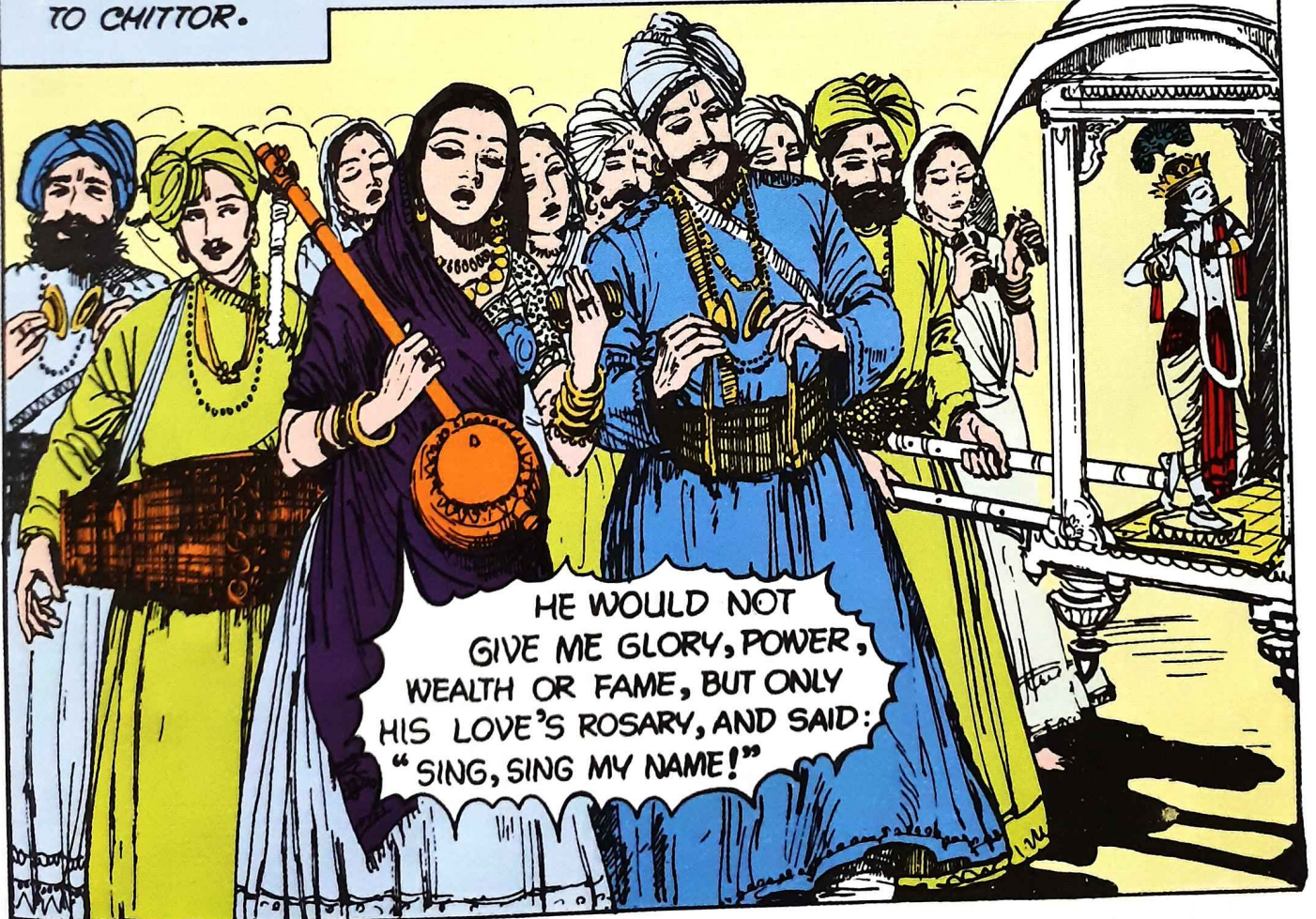
DRESSED IN THE SAFFRON ROBES OF A SADHU, BHOJRAJ TRAVELLED TO BRINDAVAN. HE APPROACHED MIRA AND HELD OUT HIS PALM —



SUDDENLY, BHOJRAJ THREW OFF HIS SAFFRON ROBES AND MIRA, RECOGNISING HER HUSBAND, FELL AT HIS FEET.

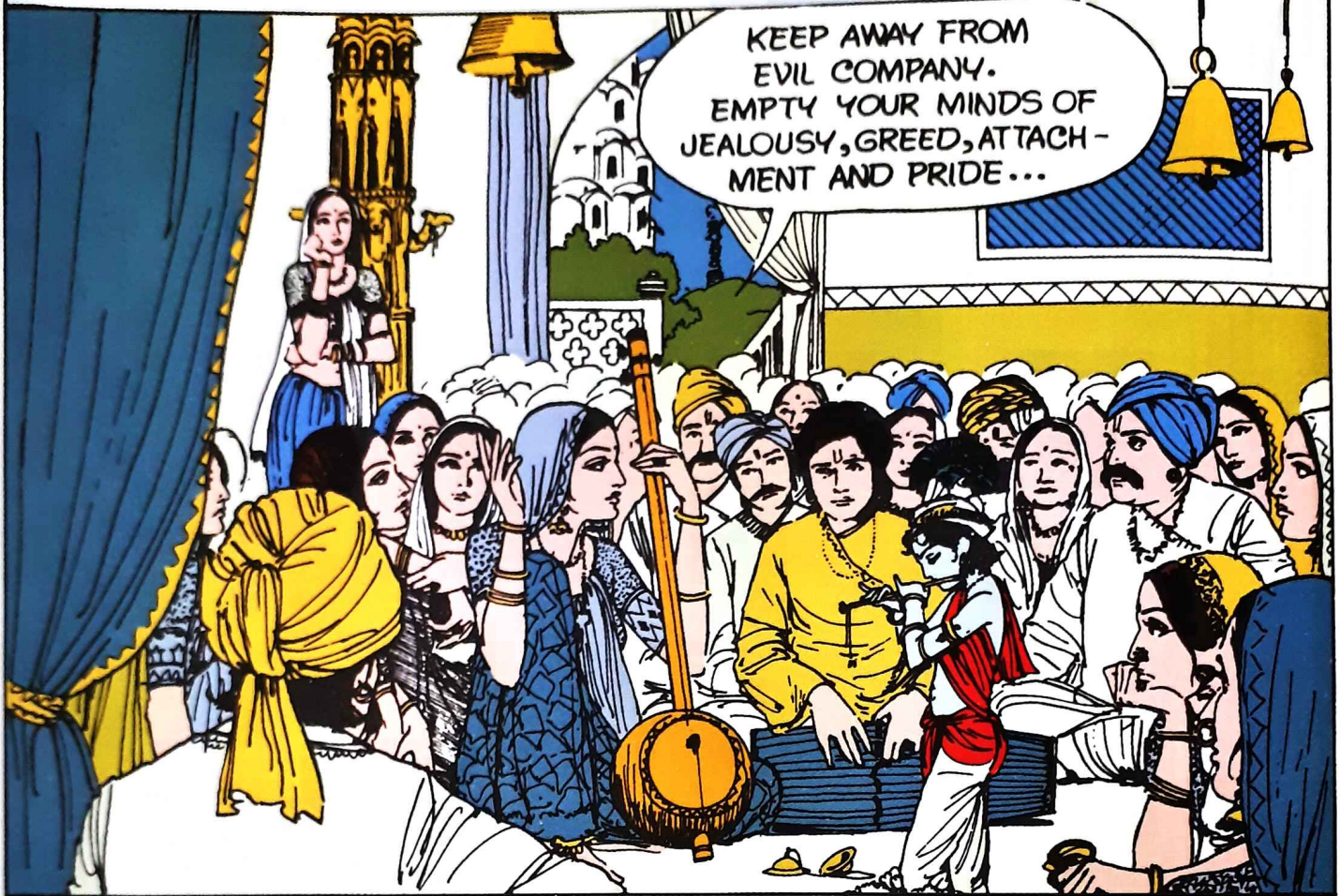


SO MIRA, LED BY HER HUSBAND AND FOLLOWED BY HER DEVOTEES, RETURNED TO CHITTOR.

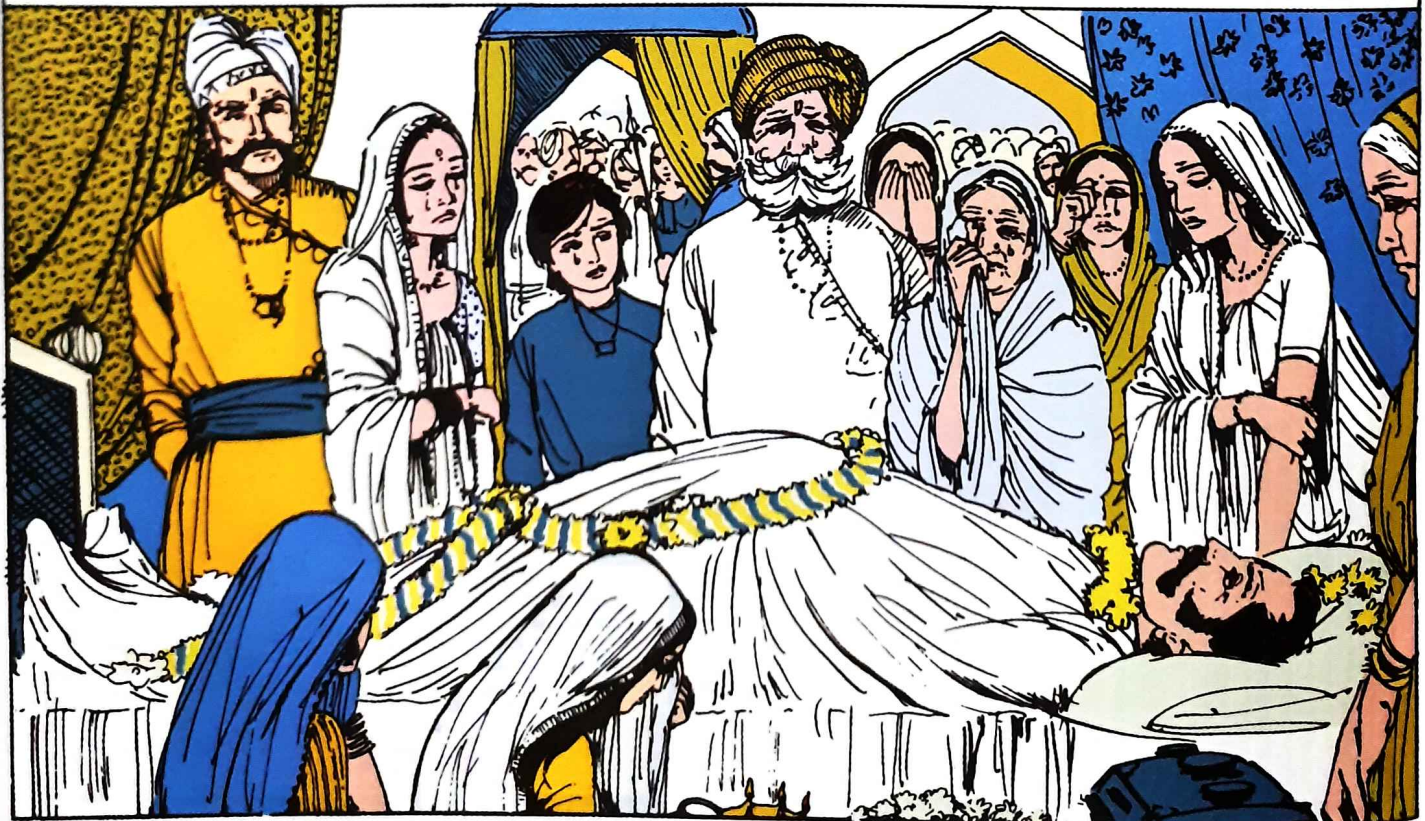


AT CHITTOR, FOR MANY YEARS, SHE CONTINUED HER WORSHIP OF HER LORD, WITH COMPLETE FREEDOM.

KEEP AWAY FROM
EVIL COMPANY.
EMPTY YOUR MINDS OF
JEALOUSY, GREED, ATTACH-
MENT AND PRIDE...



ALMOST TEN YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE MIRA HAD FIRST ARRIVED — AS BHOU-
RAJ'S BRIDE — TO CHITTOR, WHEN ALAS! SHE WAS WIDOWED!



BHOURAU'S FATHER
SUMMONED MIRA .

PREPARE YOURSELF
FOR SATI! YOU MUST
JOIN YOUR HUSBAND
ON THE FUNERAL PYRE!

BUT MIRA REFUSED.

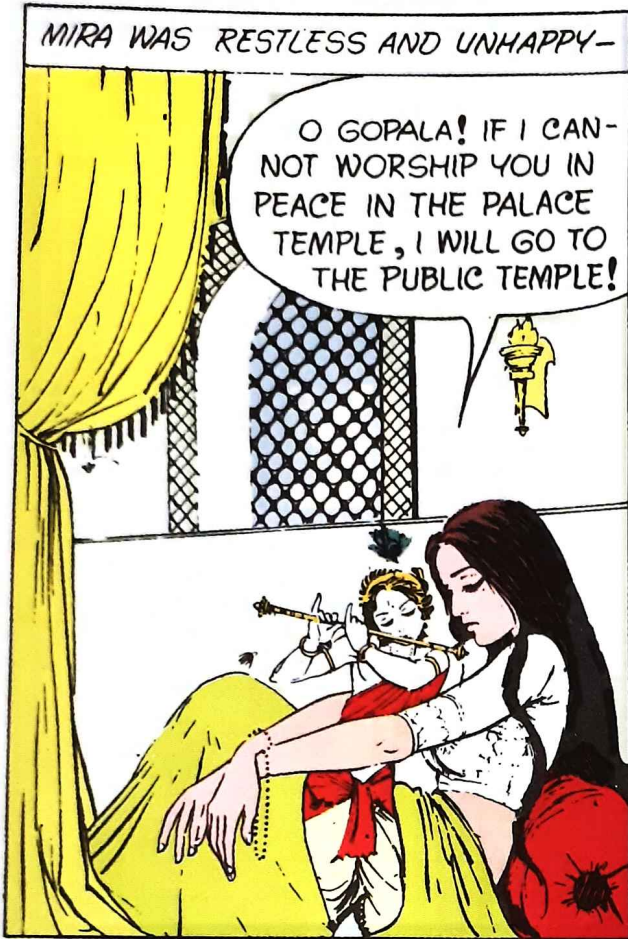
AS LONG AS THE
DIVINE LORD LIVES
IN MY HEART, I
WILL NOT DIE!

THOUGH THE WIDOWED MIRA WAS NOW MORALLY FREE TO DEVOTE HERSELF
COMPLETELY TO HER LORD, THE NEW RANA, BHOURAU'S BROTHER, GAVE HER
NO PEACE .

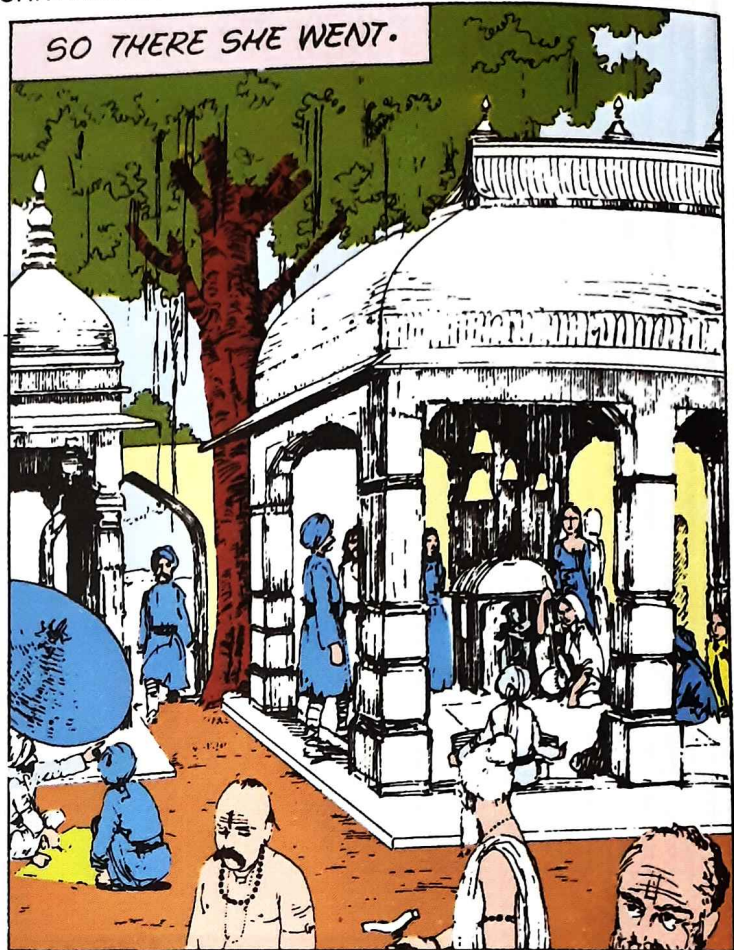
I COMMAND YOU HENCE-
FORTH NOT TO MIX WITH
HOLY MEN AND NOT TO
SING AND DANCE BEFORE
THE IMAGE OF KRISHNA
WITHIN THE WALLS OF
THIS
PALACE!

MIRA WAS RESTLESS AND UNHAPPY—

O GOPALA! IF I CAN-
NOT WORSHIP YOU IN
PEACE IN THE PALACE
TEMPLE, I WILL GO TO
THE PUBLIC TEMPLE!



SO THERE SHE WENT.



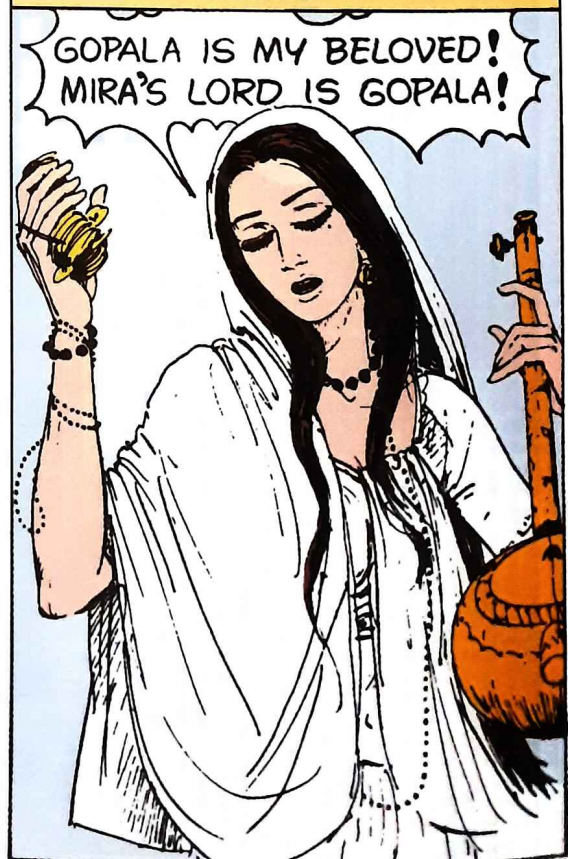
BUT NOW THE RANA RIDICULED HER FOR
MINGLING SHAMELESSLY WITH THE SADHUS
AND THE COMMON DEVOTEES.

YOU REFUSED TO JOIN YOUR
HUSBAND ON THE FUNERAL
PYRE !! WAS IT ONLY TO REVEL
IN THE COMPANY OF THESE
BEGGARS?

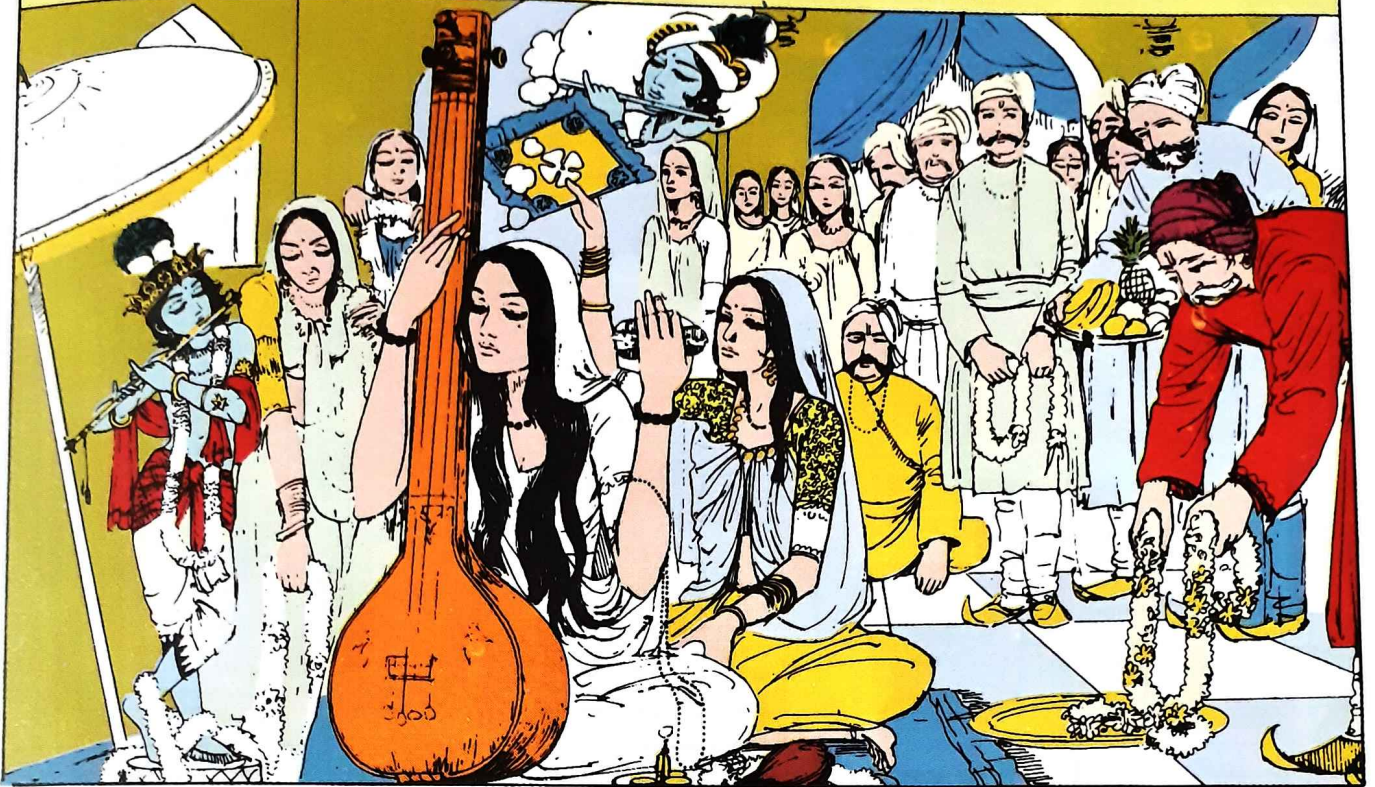


MIRA IGNORED THESE TAUNTS
AND CONTINUED SINGING AND
DANCING IN THE NAME OF HER
LORD.

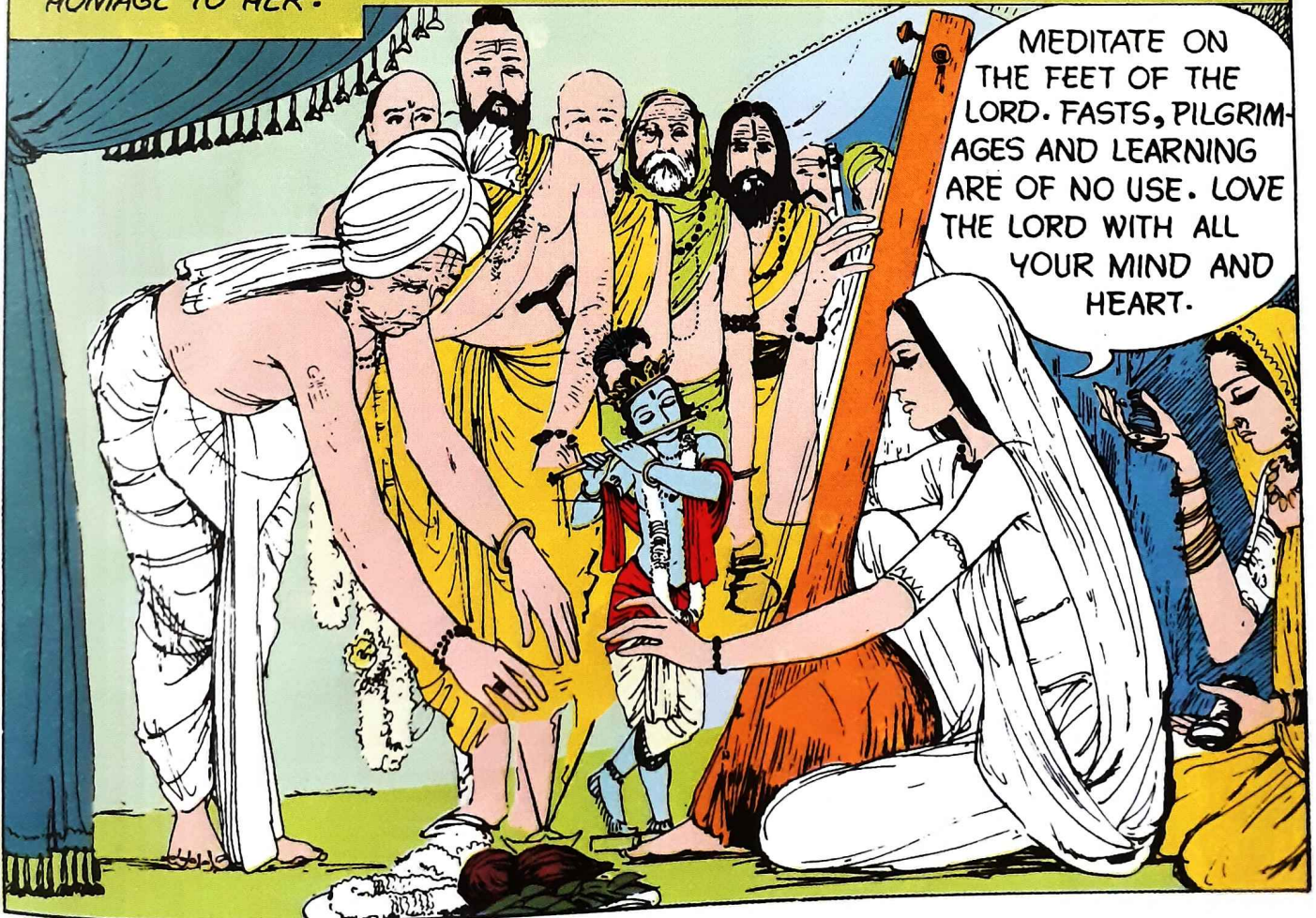
GOPALA IS MY BELOVED!
MIRA'S LORD IS GOPALA!



THE PEOPLE OF CHITTOR BEGAN TO LOVE AND RESPECT THEIR SAINTLY PRINCESS EVEN MORE, AND NEWS ABOUT HER SPREAD ALL OVER INDIA.



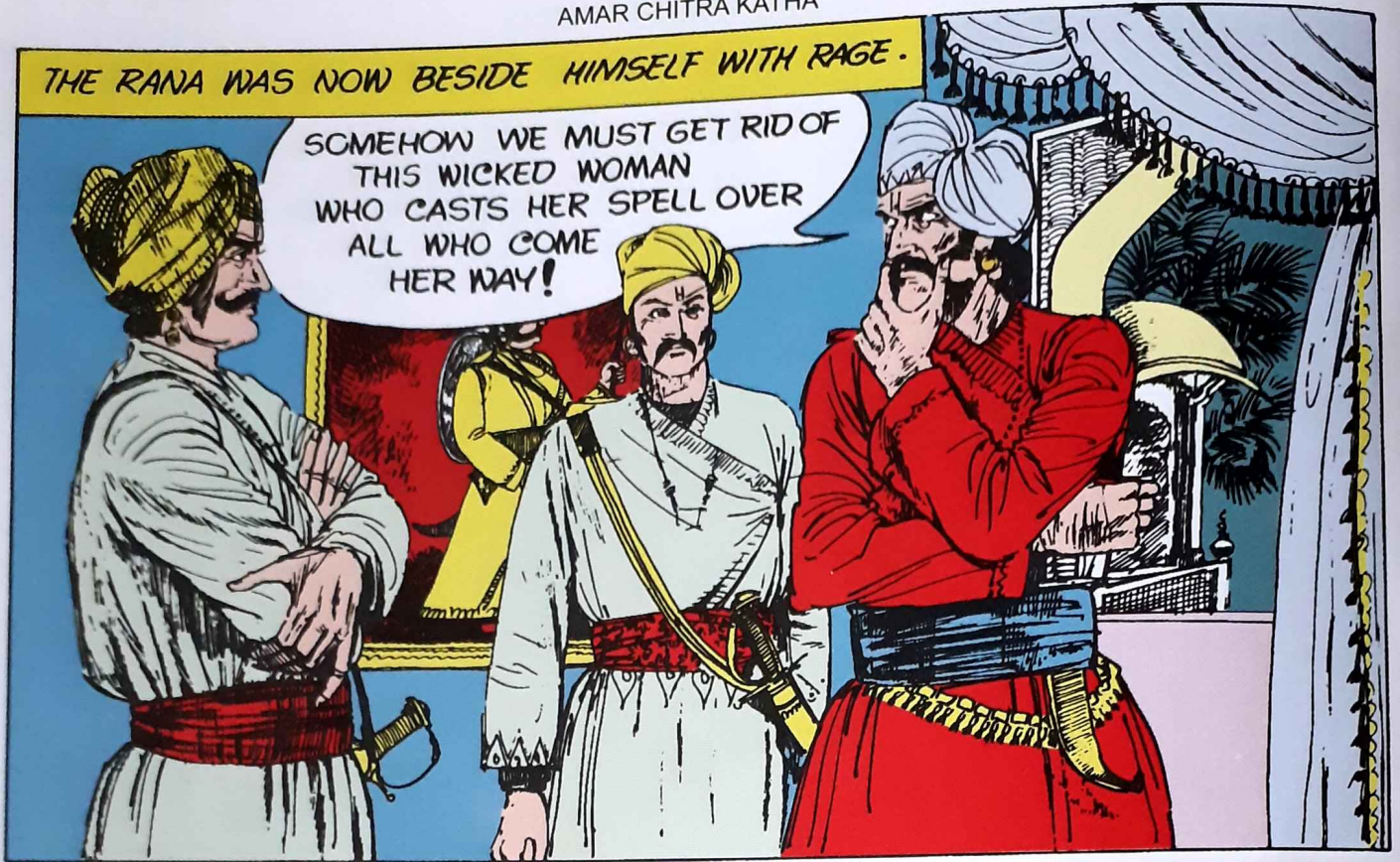
SCHOLARS AND SAINTS OF HER TIME CAME FROM DISTANT PLACES TO PAY HOMAGE TO HER.



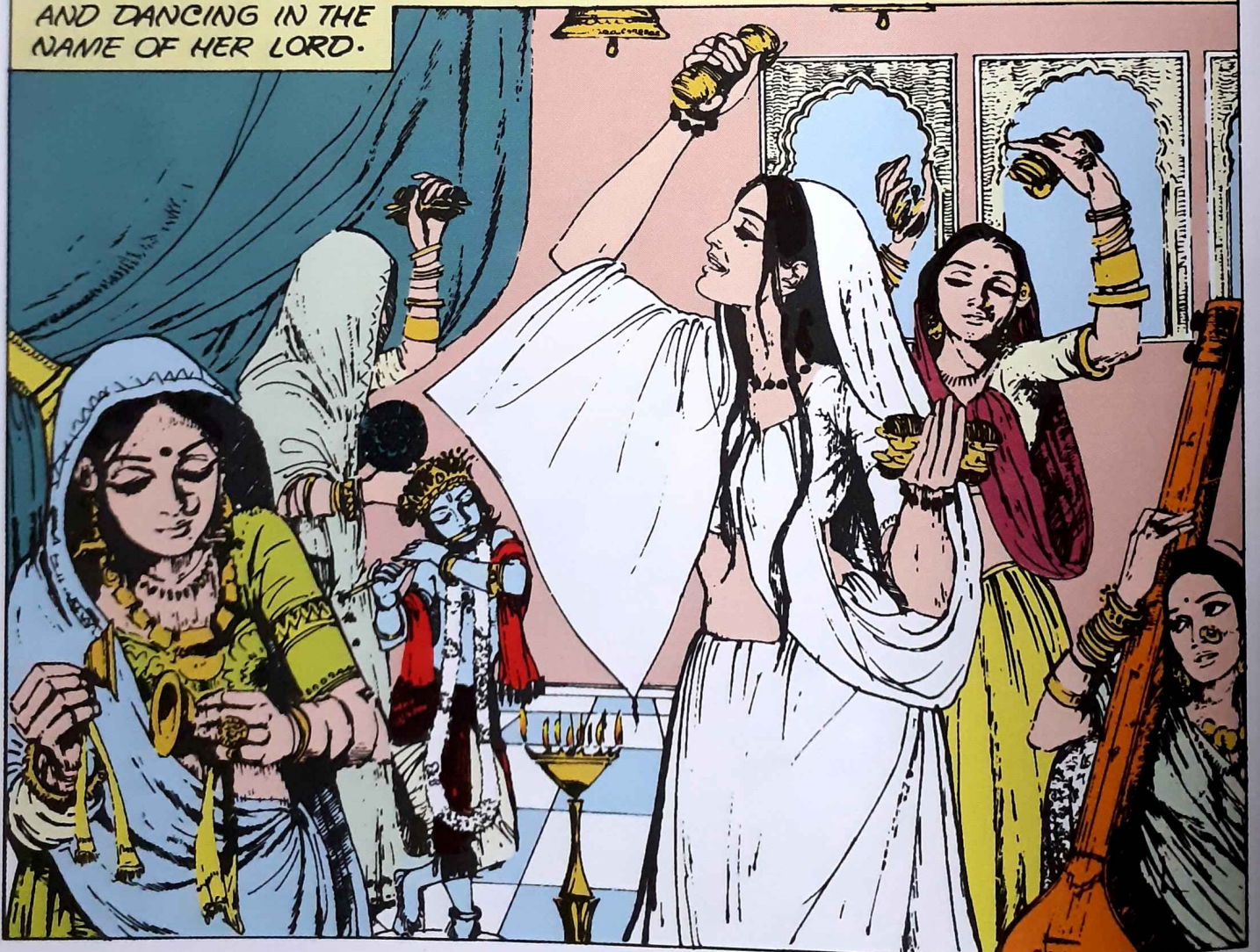
MEDITATE ON THE FEET OF THE LORD. FASTS, PILGRIMAGES AND LEARNING ARE OF NO USE. LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND HEART.

THE RANA WAS NOW BESIDE HIMSELF WITH RAGE.

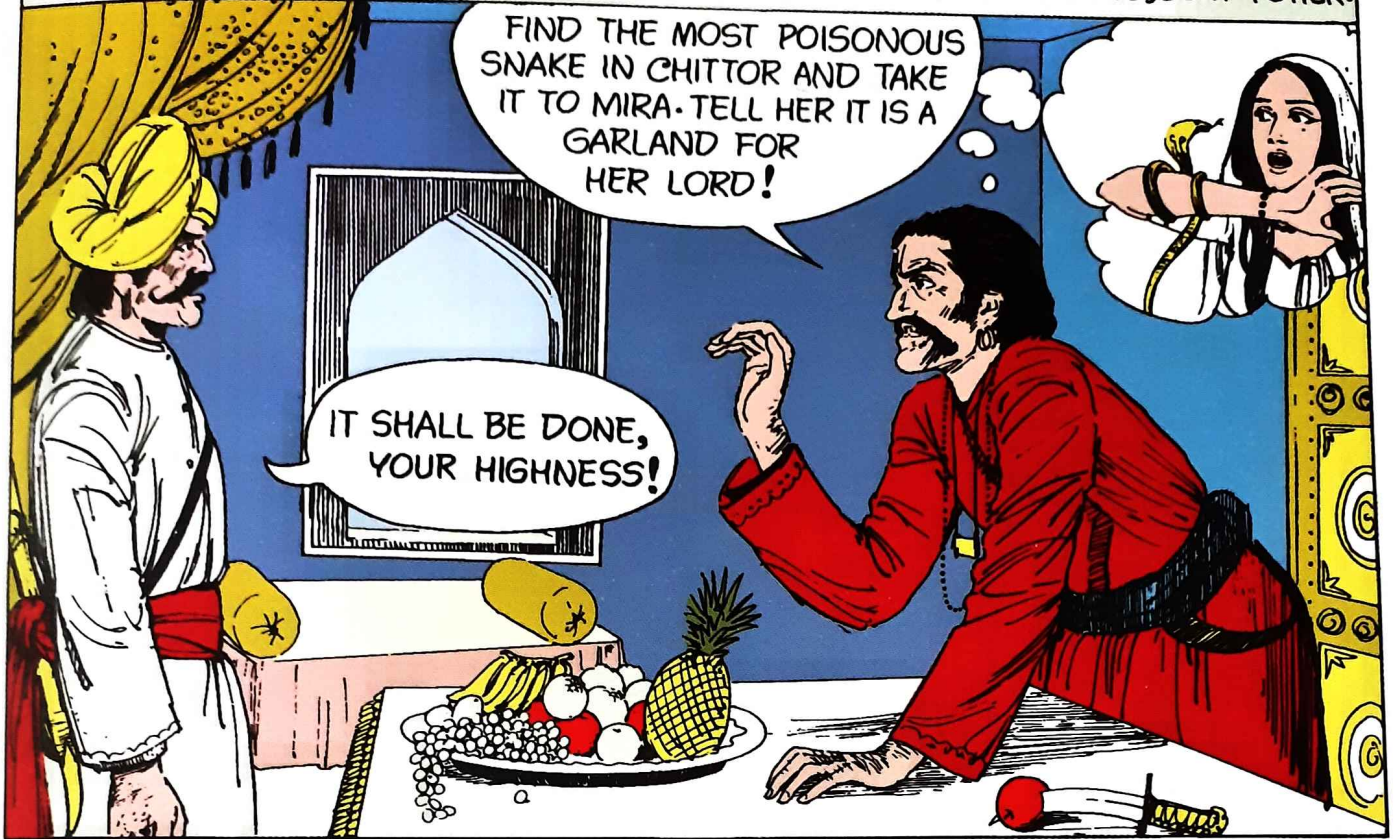
SOMEHOW WE MUST GET RID OF
THIS WICKED WOMAN
WHO CASTS HER SPELL OVER
ALL WHO COME
HER WAY!



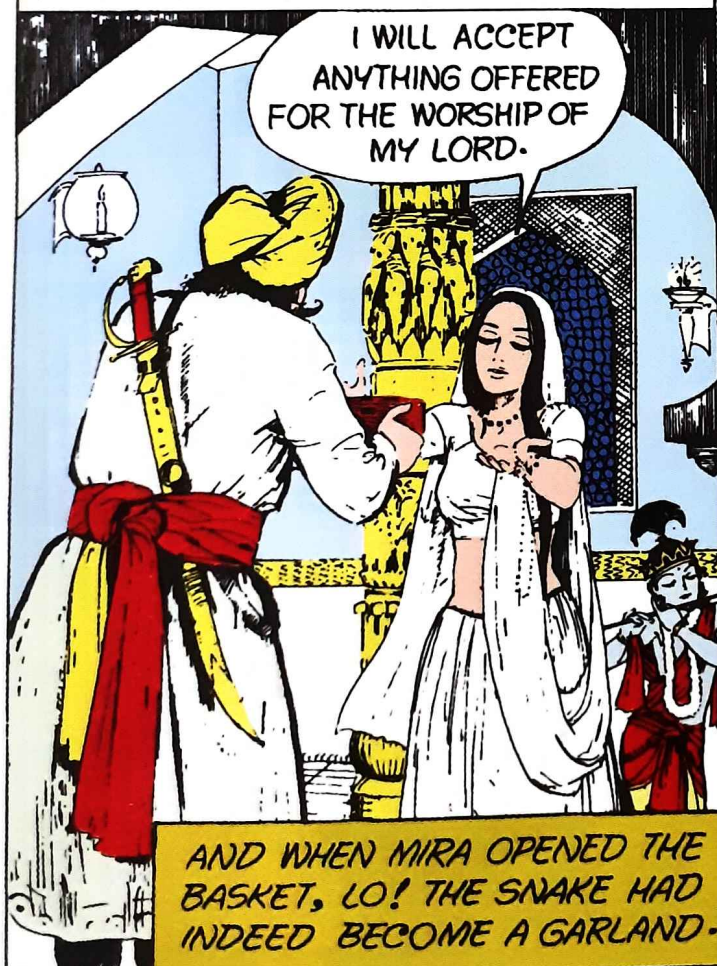
BUT MIRA'S DEVOTION WAS UNSHAKEN AND SHE CONTINUED HER SINGING
AND DANCING IN THE
NAME OF HER LORD.



ONE DAY THE RANA HAD A BASKET, CONTAINING A POISONOUS SNAKE, SENT TO HER.



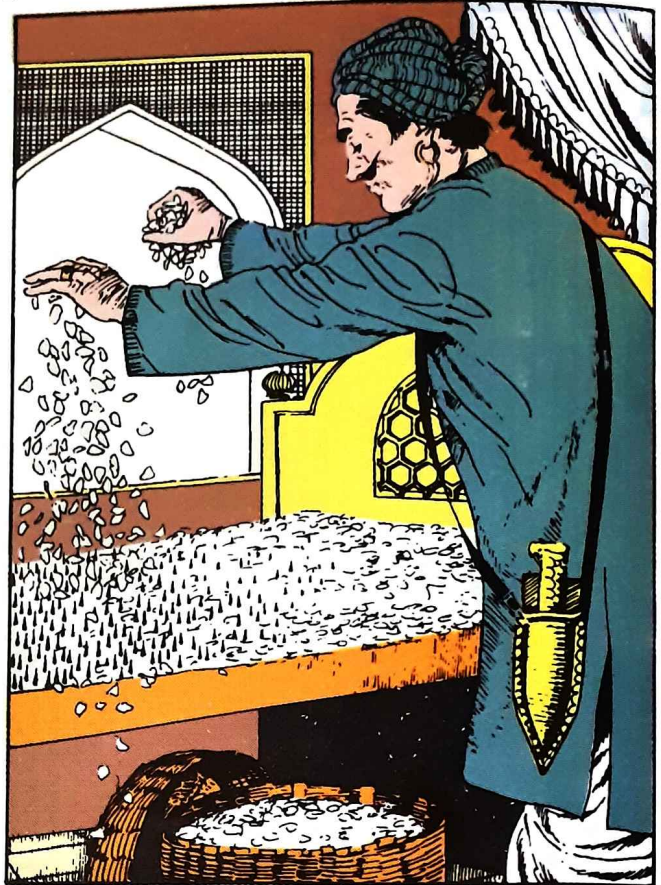
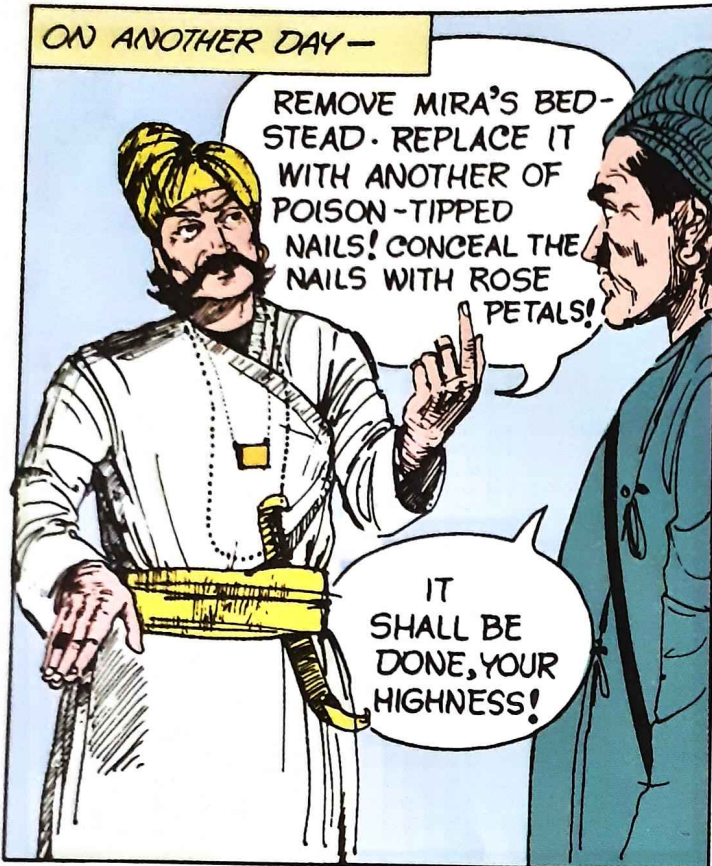
MIRA NEVER REFUSED ANYTHING THAT WAS GIVEN IN THE NAME OF HER LORD.



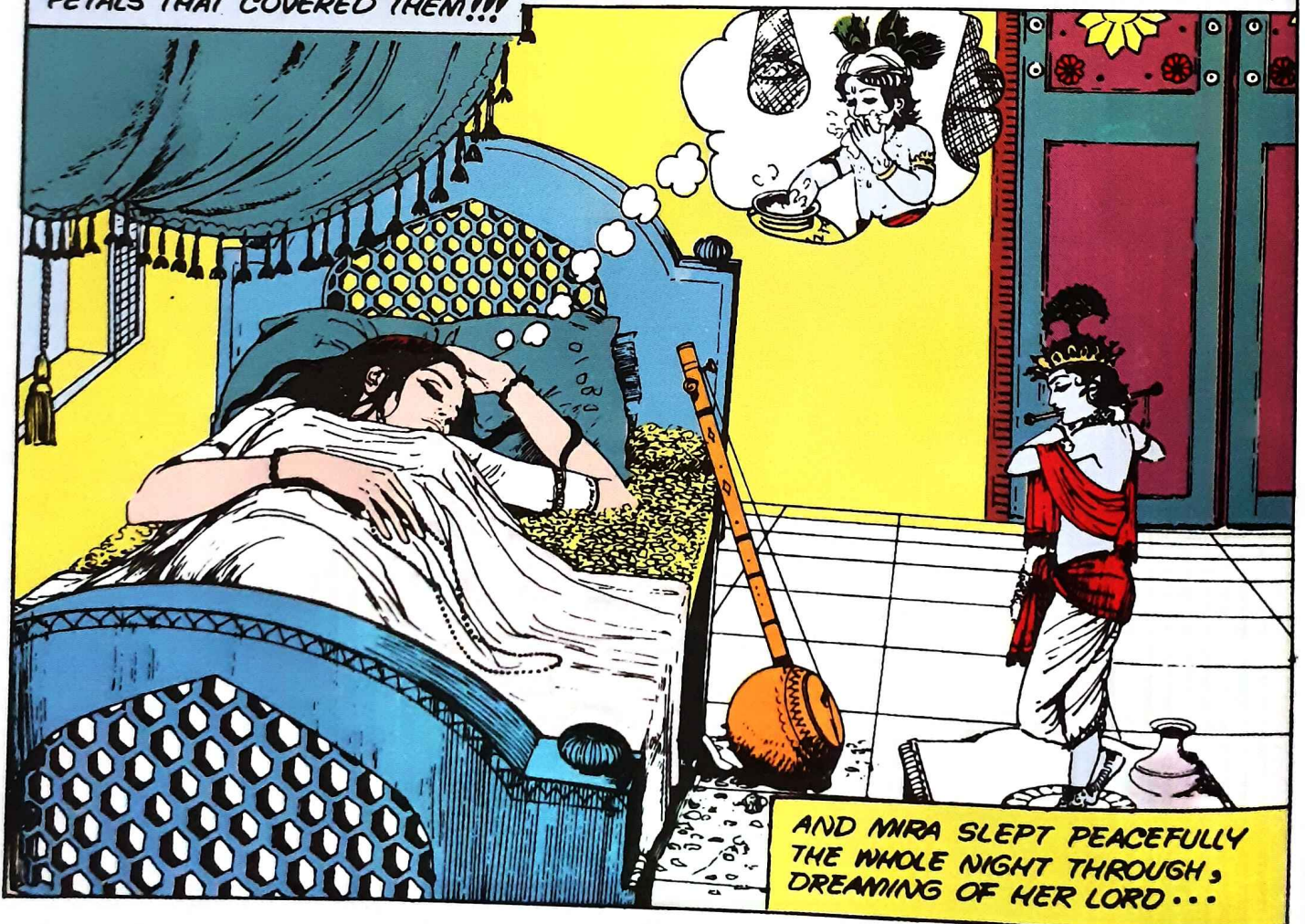
SHE GARLANDED HER LORD'S IMAGE AND THANKED THE ASTONISHED MESSENGER!



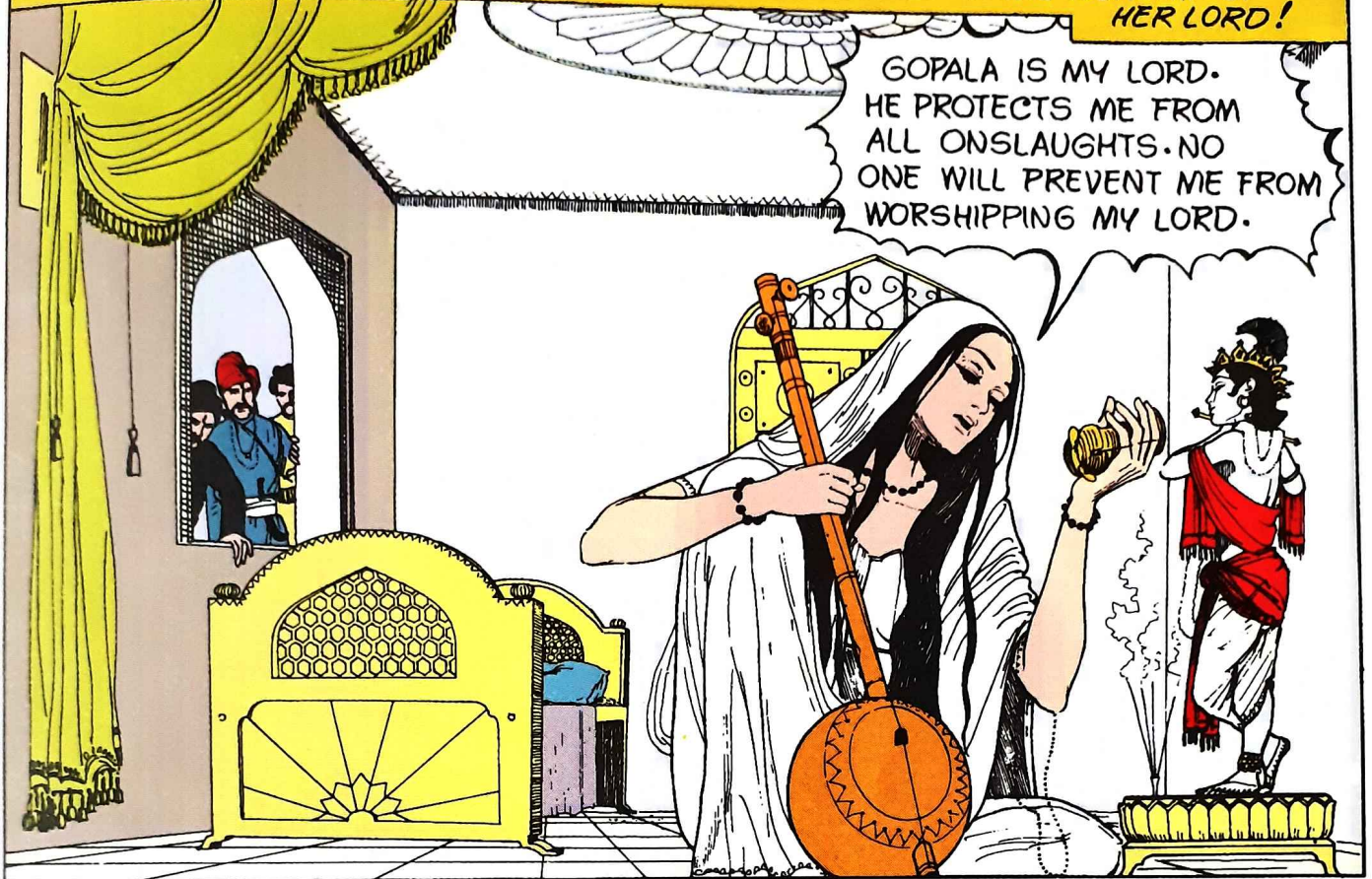
ON ANOTHER DAY—



MIRA, HARDLY CONSCIOUS OF ANY CHANGE IN HER SURROUNDINGS, LAY DOWN AS USUAL. MIRACULOUSLY, THE NAILS TURNED LIMP AND SOFT LIKE THE VERY ROSE PETALS THAT COVERED THEM!!!



THE NEXT MORNING, THE RANA AND HIS EVIL COUNSELLORS WERE UNPLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO SEE MIRA, FRESH AS EVER, ENGAGED IN THE WORSHIP OF HER LORD!



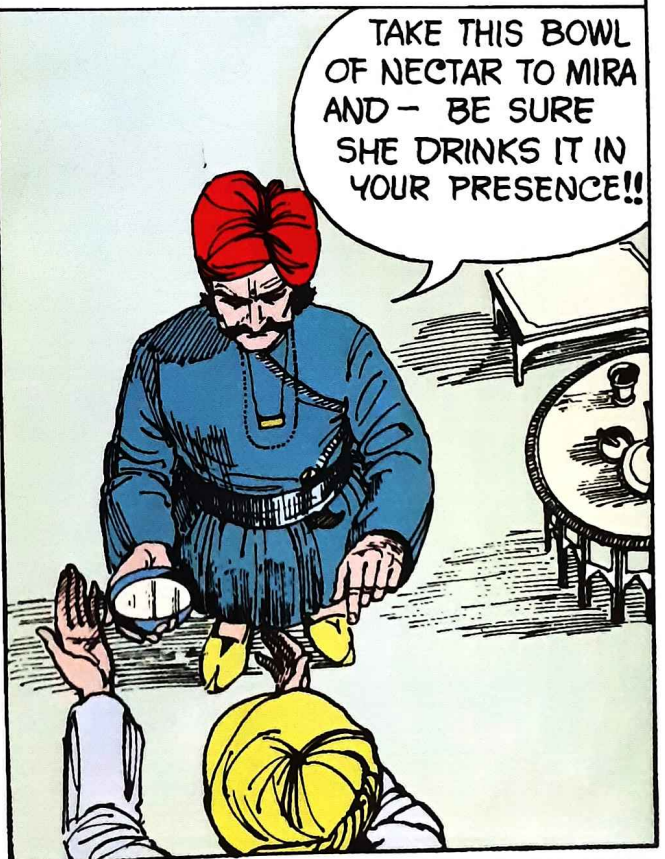
GOPALA IS MY LORD. HE PROTECTS ME FROM ALL ONSLAUGHTS. NO ONE WILL PREVENT ME FROM WORSHIPPING MY LORD.

THE RANA NOW WAS FURIOUS. HE MIXED POISON INTO A BOWL OF NECTAR WITH HIS OWN HANDS.



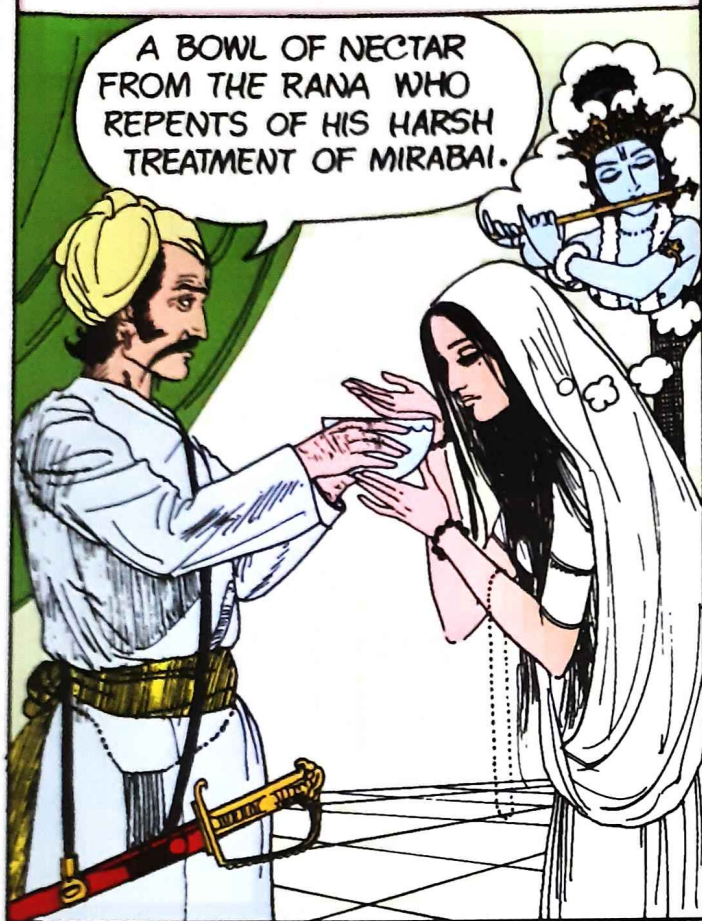
I WILL MAKE CERTAIN MIRA DOES NOT ESCAPE THIS TIME!!

HE SENT FOR HIS MOST TRUSTED MAN.

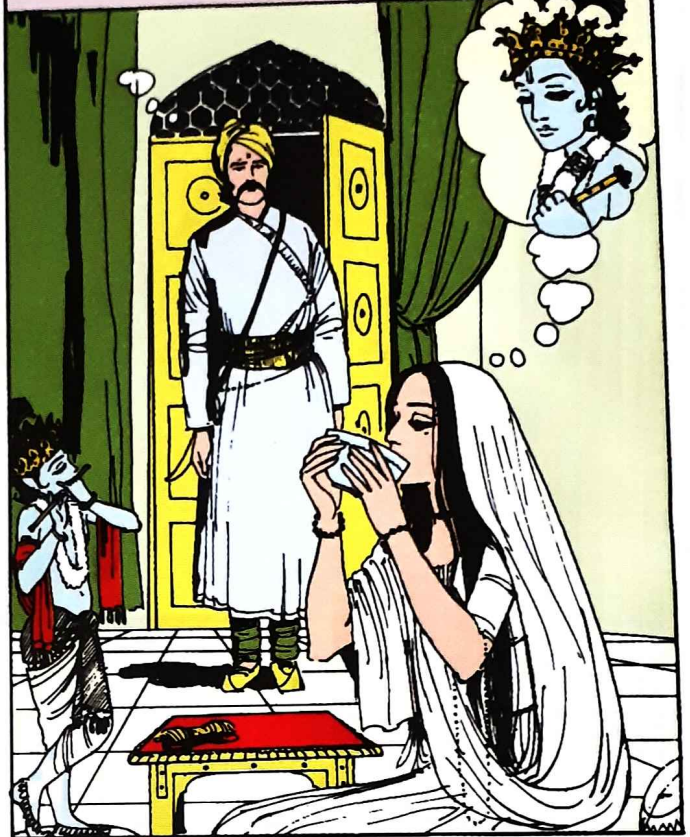


TAKE THIS BOWL OF NECTAR TO MIRA AND - BE SURE SHE DRINKS IT IN YOUR PRESENCE!!

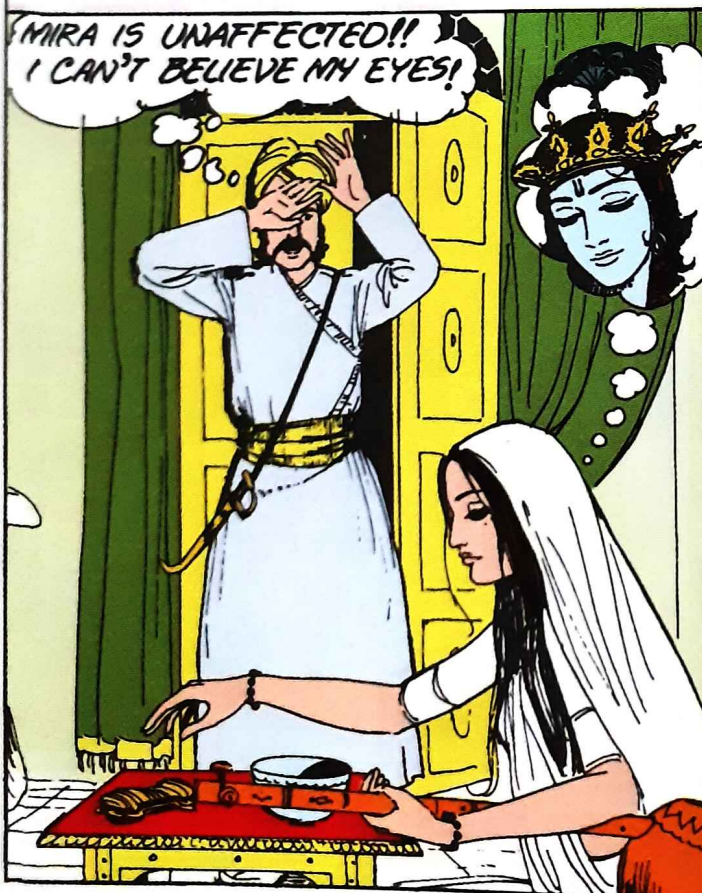
THE MAN TOOK THE BOWL TO MIRA.



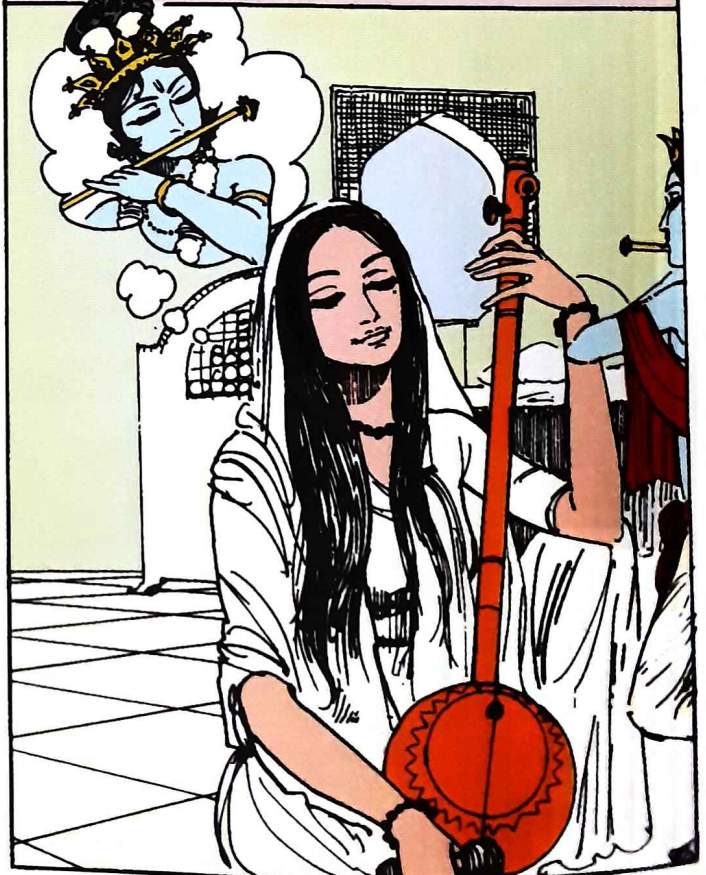
MIRA, HARDLY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT SHE ATE OR DRANK, ACCEPTED THE NECTAR AND SWALLOWED IT MECHANICALLY.

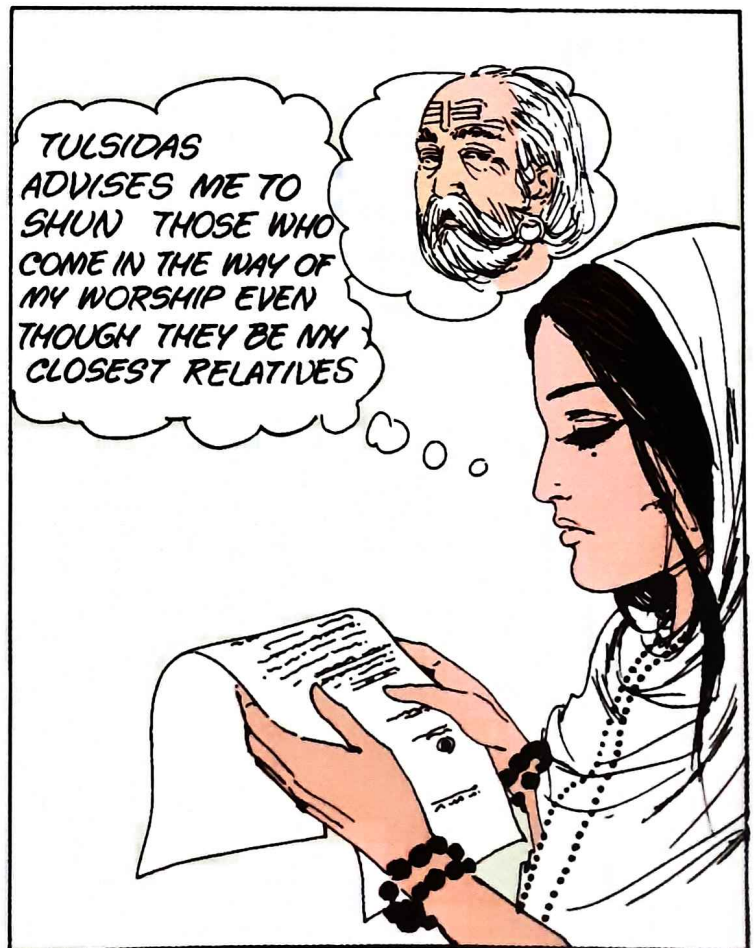
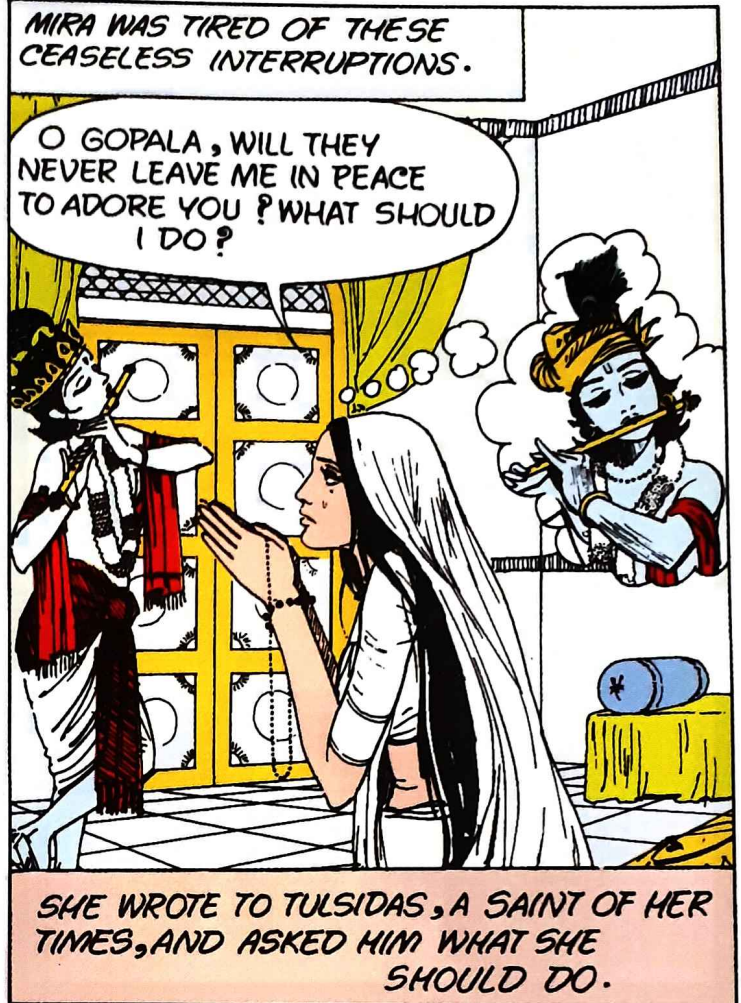


AND LO! THE POISON TURNED INTO NECTAR!!

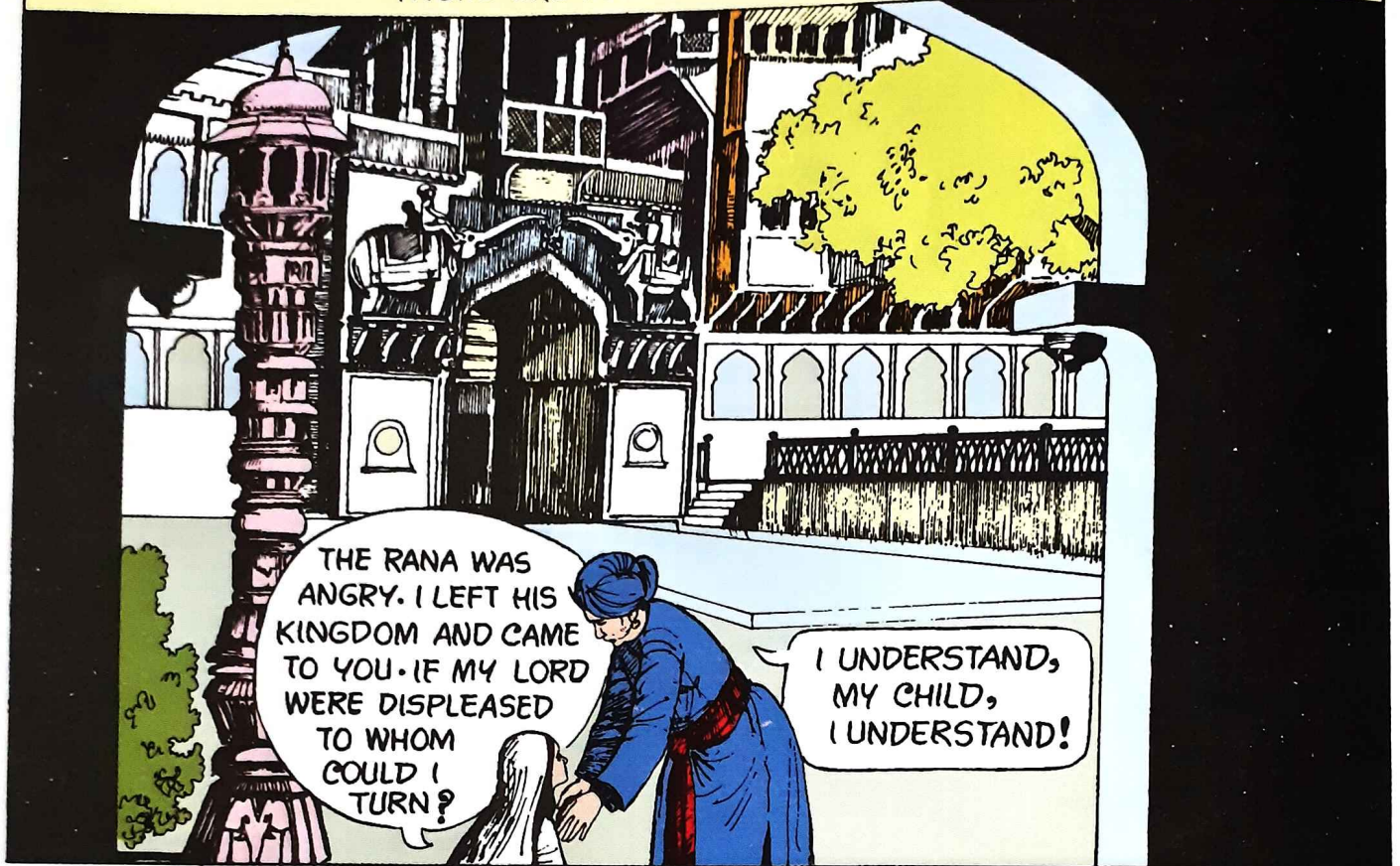


MIRA CONTINUED SITTING BEFORE HER LORD WITH A SMILE ON HER LIPS.

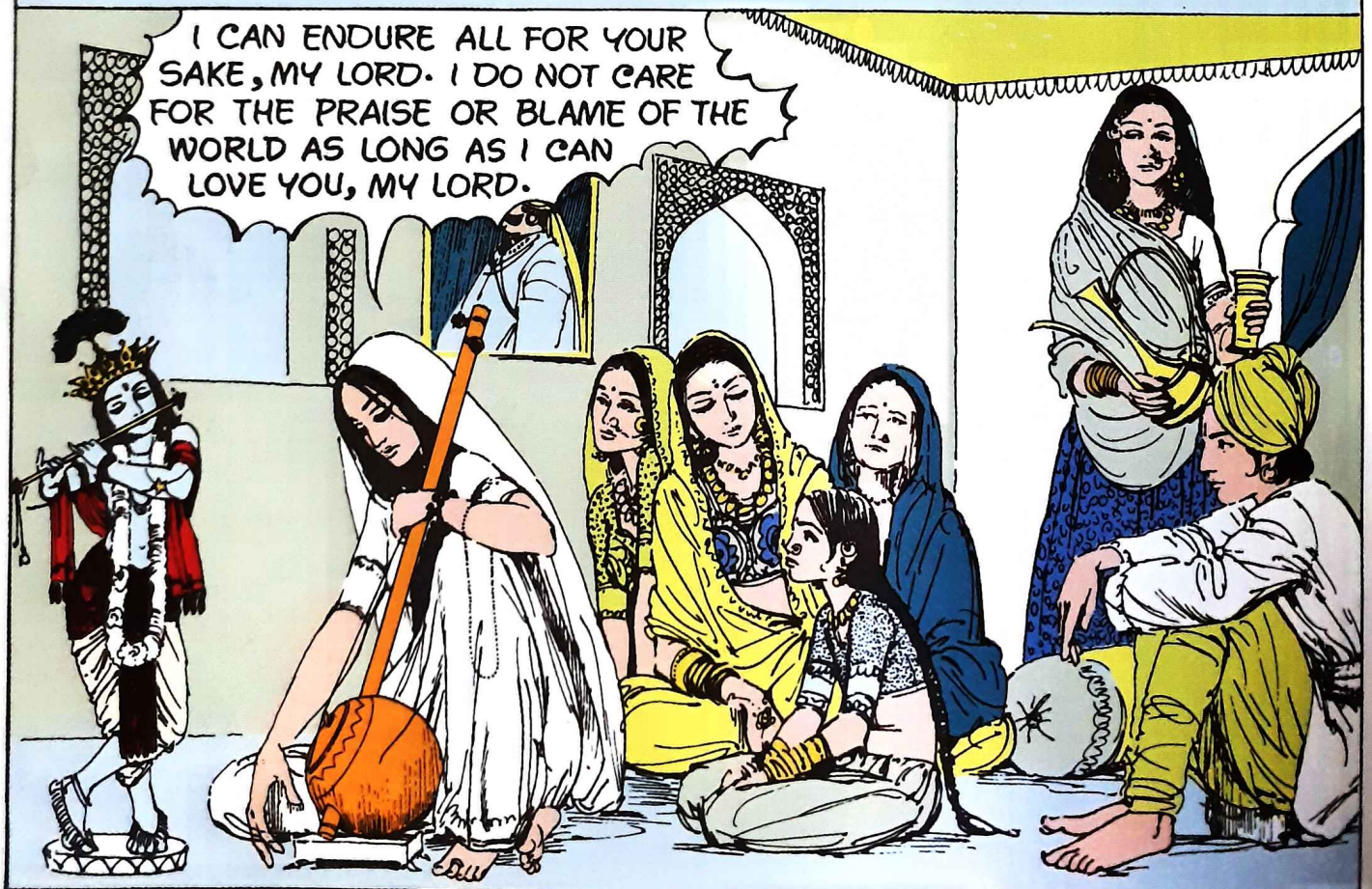




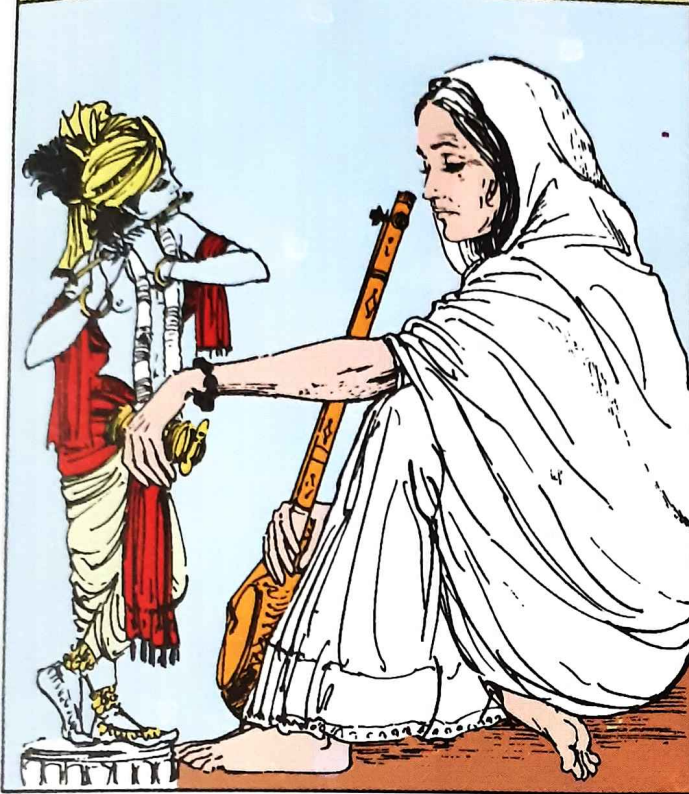
MIRA TOOK THE HINT AND LEFT CHITTOR FOR MERTA, HER UNCLE'S KINGDOM. THERE SHE WAS LOVINGLY WELCOMED.



SHE WAS GIVEN FULL FREEDOM TO WORSHIP IN PEACE.



AND SO SHE PASSED A FEW MORE YEARS IMMERSED IN HER LORD.



MIRA WAS GROWING OLD. SHE KNEW THAT HER END WAS NEAR.

MY LORD, IT IS TIME YOU TOOK ME TO YOU AND TO REST. I SHALL VISIT ALL THE PLACES DEAR TO YOU AND THEN WAIT FOR YOU.



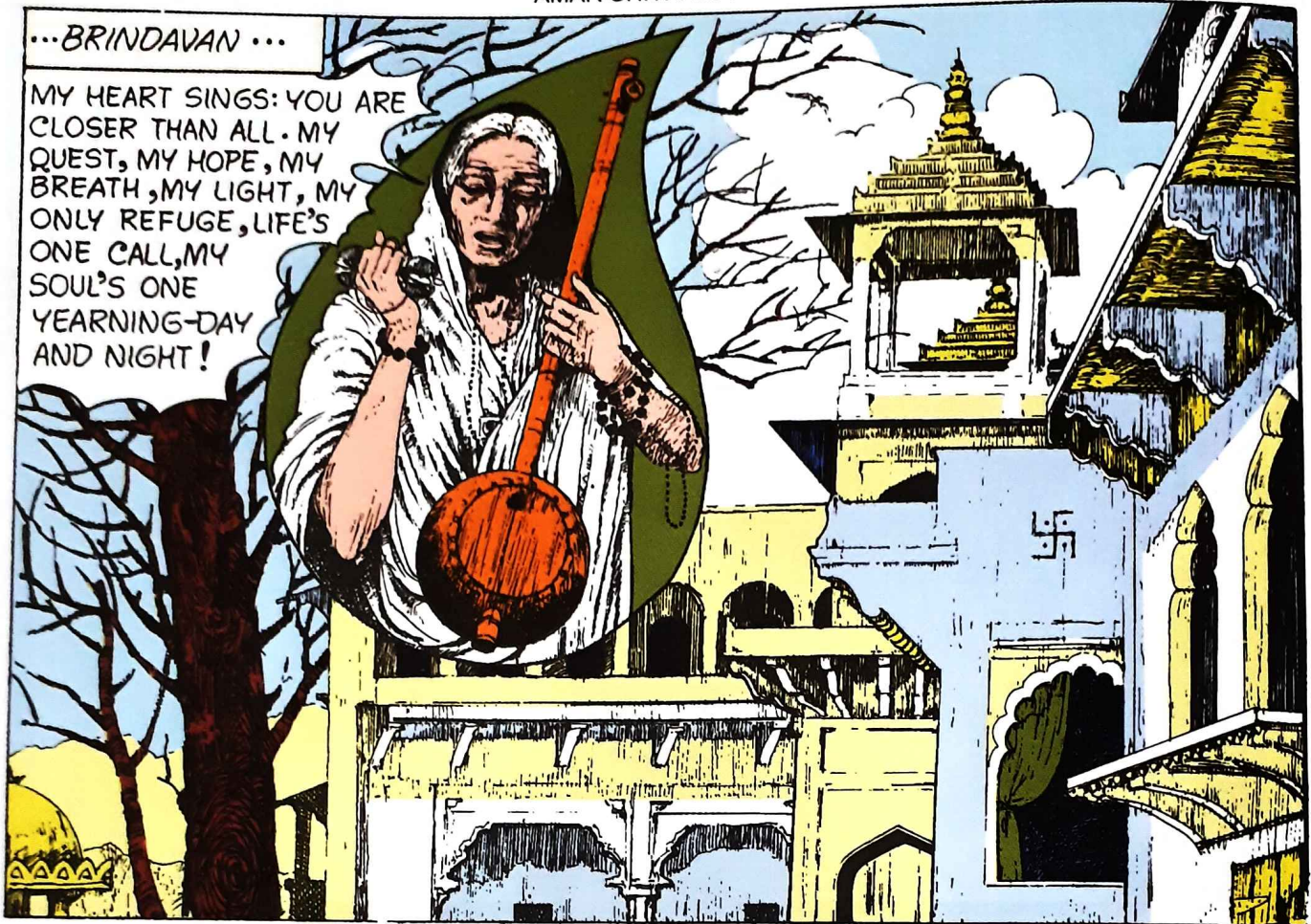
SO SHE SET OUT ON A PILGRIMAGE TO MATHURA...



EVERLASTINGLY I WILL CHASE YOU- A SHADOW LOYAL AND TRUE, AND WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU GIVE ME

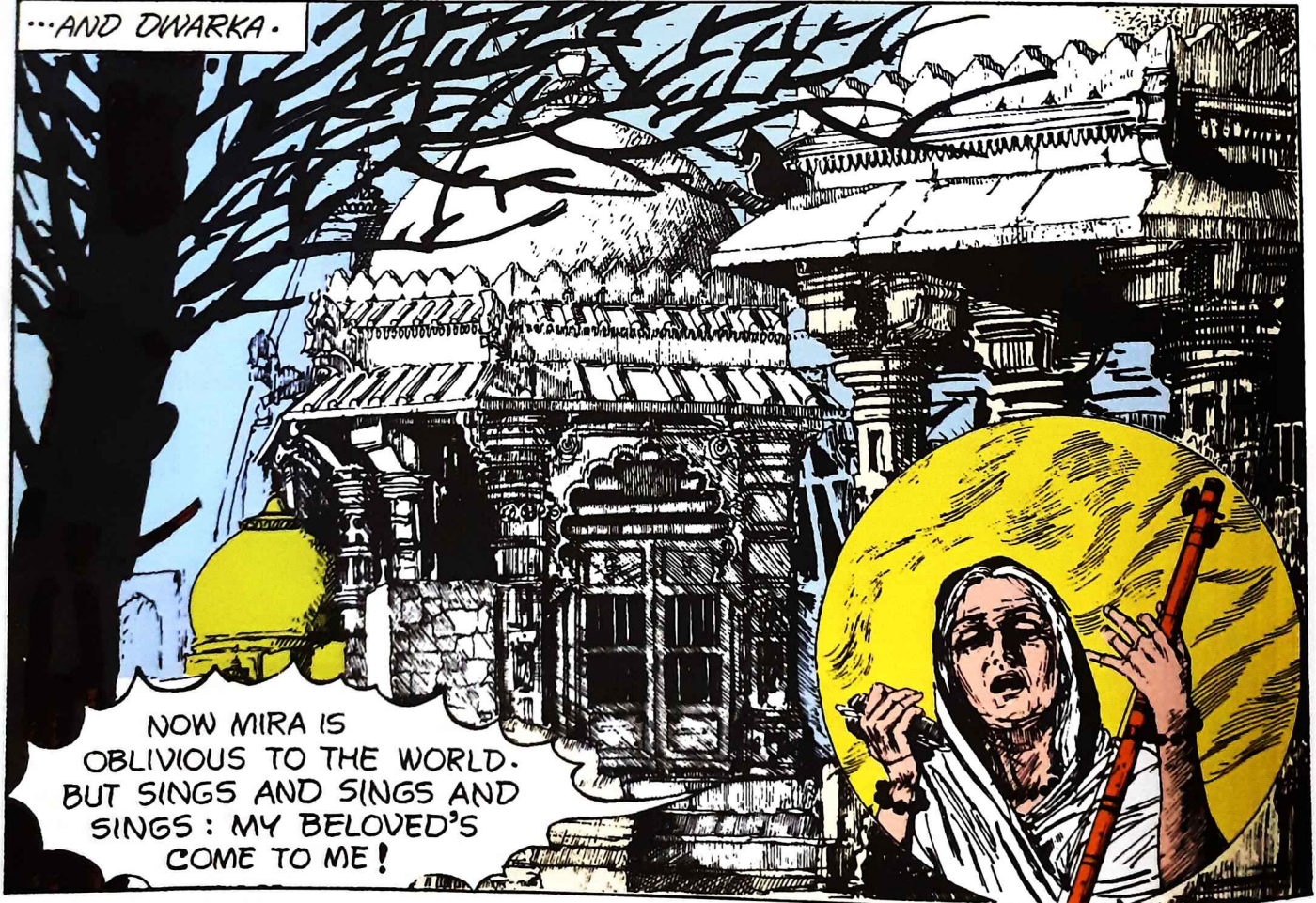
...BRINDAVAN ...

MY HEART SINGS: YOU ARE
CLOSER THAN ALL. MY
QUEST, MY HOPE, MY
BREATH, MY LIGHT, MY
ONLY REFUGE, LIFE'S
ONE CALL, MY
SOUL'S ONE
YEARNING-DAY
AND NIGHT!



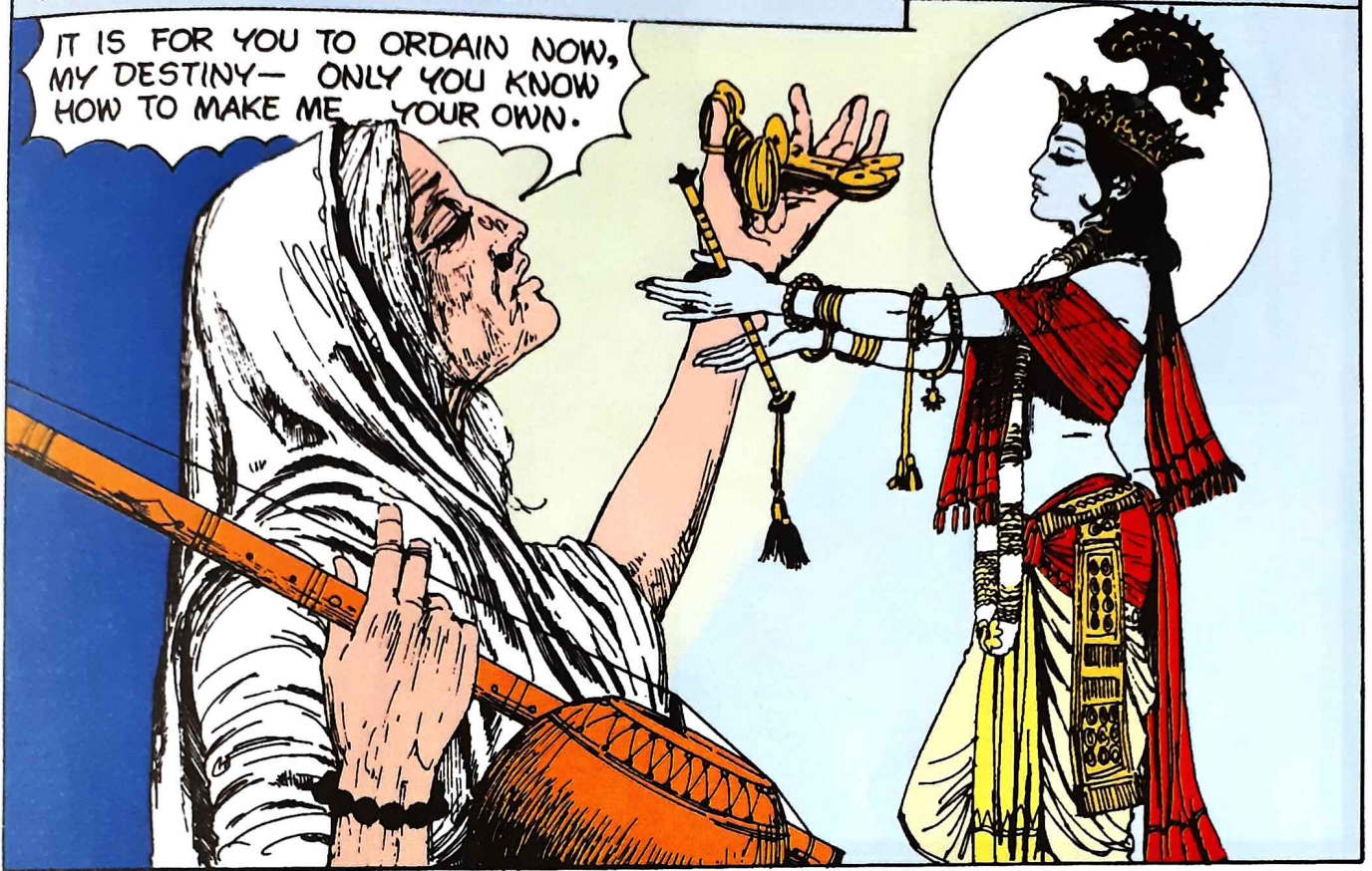
...AND DWARKA.

NOW MIRA IS
OBLIVIOUS TO THE WORLD.
BUT SINGS AND SINGS AND
SINGS: MY BELOVED'S
COME TO ME!

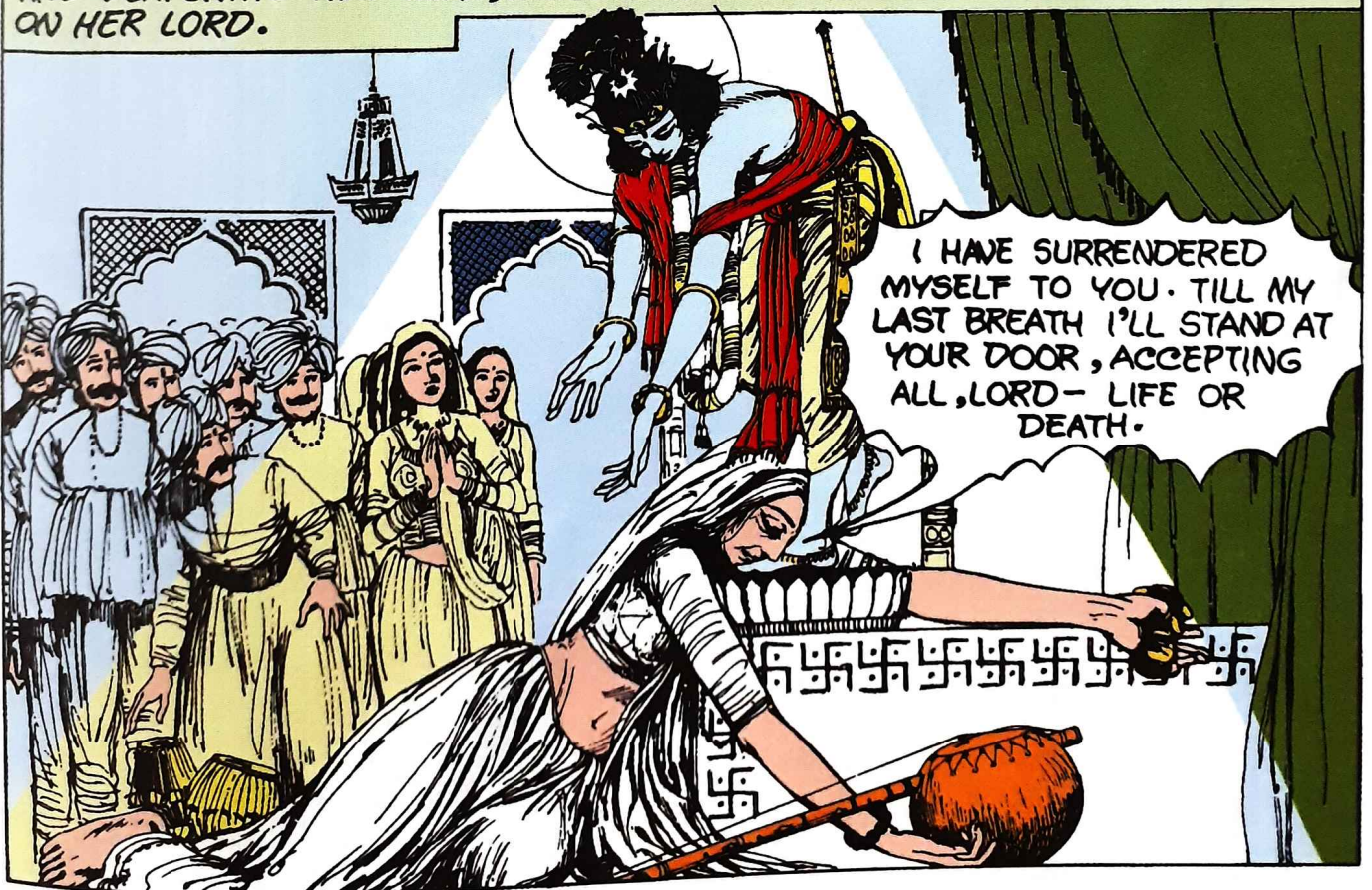


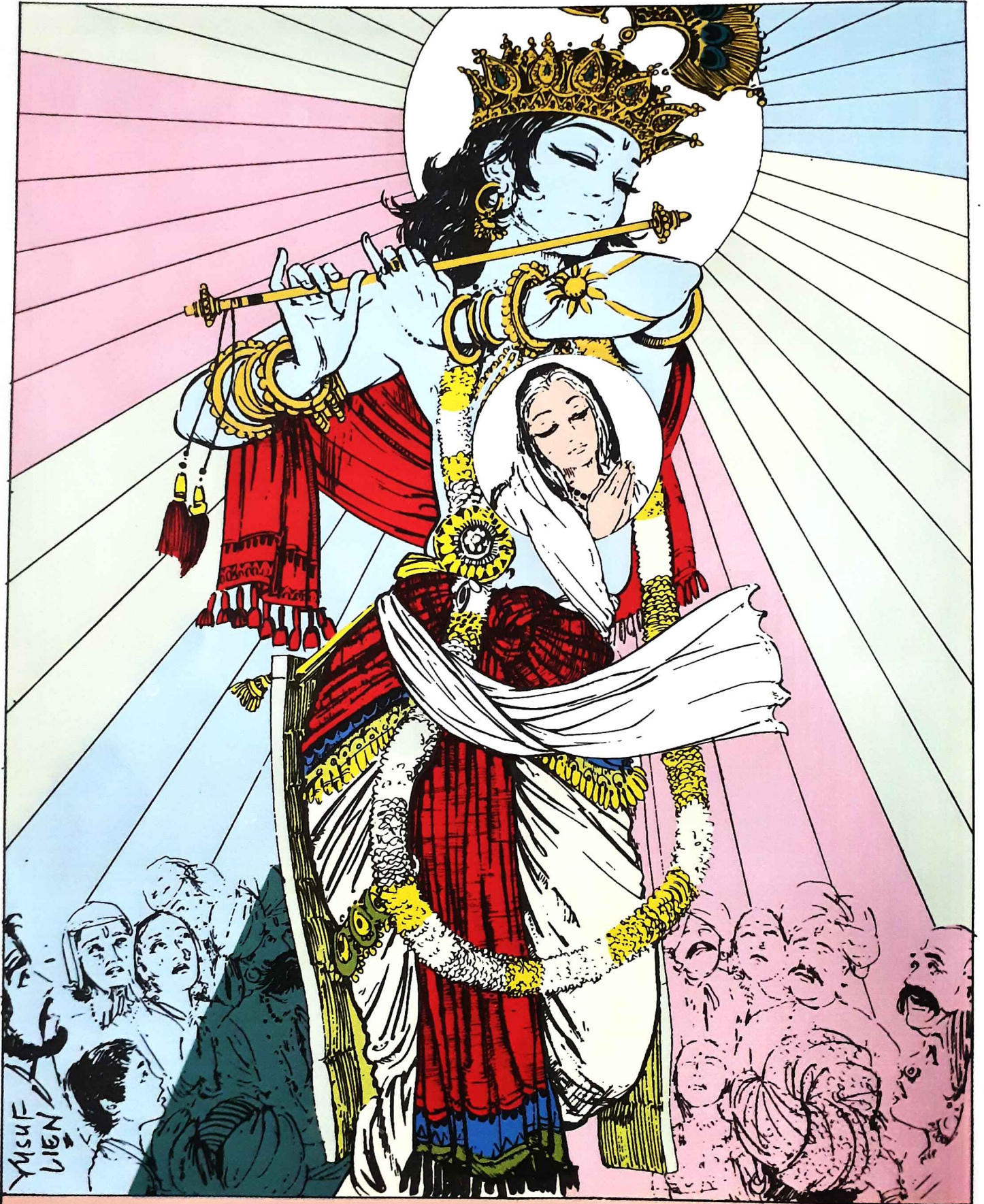
SHE STAYED ON AT DWARKA BECAUSE THE CALL OF HER LORD HAD BECOME LOUDER AND MORE INSISTENT.

IT IS FOR YOU TO ORDAIN NOW, MY DESTINY— ONLY YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE ME YOUR OWN.



ONE DAY IN THE MIDDLE OF A PRAYER MEETING THE CALL CAME SO LOUD AND DEAFENING THAT MIRA, WHILE DANCING FELL INTO A TRANCE AND FAINTED ON HER LORD.





AND MIRA AT LAST BECAME ONE WITH THE LORD SHE HAD
WORSHIPPED AND YEARNED FOR, EVER SINCE SHE HAD TAKEN
HIM FOR HER BRIDEGROOM, AT THE TENDER AGE OF FIVE !!